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GRE Premier 2017 With 6 Practice Tests: Online + Book + Videos + Mobile (Kaplan Test Prep)



Synopsis

Always study with the most up-to-date prep! Look for GRE Prep Plus 2018, ISBN 9781506219837, on sale June 6, 2017.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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For almost 80 years, Kaplan Test Prep (www.kaptest.com) has been helping students grow their knowledge, skills and confidence so they can be their best on Test Day. Our prep books and online resources provide the expert guidance that students need at every step of their educational journey -- incorporating years of test-specific data and strategies tested by Kaplan students and our own expert psychometricians. After helping millions of students, we know what works. Our guides deliver knowledge with clarity and simplicity while focusing on the specialized strategies that keep test-takers ahead of the clock and at the top of their game. We offer preparation for more than 90 standardized tests -- including entrance exams for secondary school, college, and graduate school, as well as professional licensing exams for attorneys, physicians, and nurses. With a full array of self-paced and live online courses, as well as print books and mobile apps, you can use Kaplan to study on your own schedule and at your own speed. Kaplan's private

tutors and admissions consultants supplement those offerings with one-on-one support.

I am a Harvard graduate, 99% scorer and professional GRE tutor with 16 years of experience, and it's safe to say that I am not a fan of this book. The fact that this is currently the highest selling GRE test-prep book on tells me that GRE test-takers don't always know what they are doing, and perhaps that they don't realize that the 6 tests (5 online CATs and 1 in the book) are not real GREs. It also tells me that sometimes, marketing and hype can trump quality and realism. To me, Kaplan has always represented the lowest common denominator of test-prep books, and this one is no exception. First, let's contrast Kaplan's book description with reality.

Kaplan: "GRE Premier 2017 is a comprehensive prep system that includes..."

Reality: This book is quite full of information, yes, but it is clearly not comprehensive because it doesn't include any official GRE test questions. That's right: there are exactly ZERO real GRE questions in this book, despite the fact that there are nearly 1,000 real questions available to test-takers, straight from the test maker, through the free GRE Powerprep Software (google "GRE Revised General Test: POWERPREP II Software" to find and download this software) and the Official GRE Super Power Pack: Official GRE Super Power Pack. So how could this book ever be honestly marketed as "comprehensive"? I understand that there are copyright issues involved, but the least Kaplan could do is to mention that these official GRE materials exist • otherwise it is doing its students and clients a disservice by making them feel fully prepared for the GRE, when they in fact are not. If acing the GRE were as easy as Kaplan makes it seem, then everyone would do it. The fact is that to maximize your score you need to put in hard work and practice with real GRE questions. Why are the GRE Official Guides (Super Power Pack) the very best place to start your GRE preparation, other than the free PowerPrep software? Because the questions in these books are super-realistic. They are just like the questions on the real GRE, because these books are written by the test-maker and use actual GRE questions. Don't waste your time and money practicing on questions made by any other companies--these are merely inferior imitations of the real thing. If you must use other materials for test strategy and learning, then that's fine, and in most cases necessary, but try your best to stick to official questions whenever possible.

Kaplan: "Kaplan guarantees that if you study with this book and online resources, you will score higher on the GRE • or you'll receive a full refund."

Reality: So, if for some reason you already took the GRE, and you buy this book and try to use it, and your score doesn't go up a single point (!), and you

decide to go through the process of formally sending this book back and requesting your \$22 refund, then we will request documentation and, after an inevitable bureaucratic delay, eventually give you your \$22 back. Yes, you might get your money back, but you will still be stuck with a low GRE score and nothing to show for it. Am I surprised by any of this? No. I've been in the test-prep industry for a long time, and since then, this purgatory between mediocrity and incompetence is what I have come to expect from Kaplan. That, and an army of anonymous online droids who predictably show up on , immediately after any Kaplan book is published, brandishing predictably brief, vague and grammatically incorrect 5-star reviews. I would strongly suggest that students and parents read the many 5-star reviews of this book thoroughly to see which ones you feel are from actual GRE test takers or parents, and not paid, anonymous reviewers.

TWO MAIN REASONS WHY I DON'T RECOMMEND THIS BOOK:

- 1) Kaplan is not horrible; it's just OK. That being said, the Manhattan Prep GRE Set of 8 Strategy Guides (Manhattan Prep GRE Strategy Guides), Barron's GRE, 21st Edition and Princeton Review GRE guides Cracking the GRE Premium Edition with 6 Practice Tests, 2017 (Graduate School Test Preparation) are all better than Kaplan's. Kaplan is the best at marketing, perhaps, but not the best GRE strategy and learning book. I would suggest that you read the many (upcoming, trust me) 5-star reviews of this book thoroughly to see which ones you feel are from actual GRE test takers, and not paid, anonymous online reviewers.
- 2) As I wrote earlier, the Official Guides to the GRE are currently ranked lower on the GRE best-sellers list than this book by Kaplan. How is it possible that you would buy this book before you buy the Official Guides to the test you are taking? You should always try to practice with real GRE questions whenever possible, because the practice questions in this book (and online) are noticeably different from real GRE questions.

is a very democratic place, and anyone is given a voice, including unknown individuals with questionable agendas, so do your research and see what GRE experts such as myself and (my co-author) Vince Kotchian have to say about these types of "all in one" GRE preparation guides.

A QUICK NOTE ABOUT THE POWERPREP CATs: TWO OFFICIAL CATs ARE NOT ENOUGH, SO SUPPLEMENT WITH MANHATTAN, BARRON'S OR PRINCETON REVIEW. As I have already mentioned, the free GRE Powerprep Software contains two official GRE CATs (computer adaptive tests). When you take the test, you will only see 80 questions, but there are 160 possible questions on each test, depending on your performance on the first section. For more information on this, google "The GRE PowerPrep II Scoring Algorithm, Demystified." Since there are only two official CATs from ETS, you're going to want to find another source of CATs, since you should take around

4-8 tests before you are fully prepared. My preferred company for this purpose is Manhattan GRE. You can either buy the entire series of books, which is helpful but pricey, or you can simply buy the books individually—GRE Algebra Strategy Guide (Manhattan Prep GRE Strategy Guides), based upon your needs. Either way, you will gain access (through a scratch code on the back of each book) to Manhattan's 6 online GRE CATs, which are a bit harder than the real thing, and slightly different from the real GRE, but worthy imitations nonetheless. For my additional GRE prep recommendations, google "GRE Action Plan - McElroy Tutoring." Please leave any questions or comments below and I'll be sure to respond.

I'm a Harvard grad, 99% GRE scorer (337, 168Q / 169V / 5.5 AW) and professional GRE tutor since 2002. Although Kaplan books are consistently among the top-selling GRE guides on Amazon, I usually find them to be of poor to mediocre quality, and this book is no exception. In particular, it is important to note that this book, like all third-party GRE strategy books, does not contain any real GRE questions. Instead, the practice tests and GRE questions within are entirely synthetic--written by Kaplan, not ETS, the maker of the GRE--and thus are often lacking from a realism standpoint. GRE Prep Plus 2018 (currently \$24) is marketed as a "comprehensive prep system" for the GRE. Yet like its predecessor, GRE Premier 2017 with 6 Practice Tests: Online + Book + Videos + Mobile (Kaplan Test Prep), to which it is virtually identical in content, almost nowhere in the book (other than one line of text buried on page 576) do the authors reference the GRE official test materials, such as the Official Guide to the GRE—The Official Guide to the GRE General Test, Third Edition, the GRE Super Power Pack—Official GRE Super Power Pack 2/E (Test Prep), and the free PowerPrep software from ETS, which are indispensable parts of the GRE prep process, and the only sources of real GRE questions (around 1,000 official questions total). So how could this book ever be honestly marketed as "comprehensive?" I understand that there are copyright issues involved, but the least Kaplan could do is to direct students' attention to these essential materials—otherwise it is doing its readers a disservice by making them feel fully prepared for the GRE, when they in fact are not. If acing the GRE were as easy as Kaplan makes it seem, then everyone would do it. The fact is that to maximize your score, you need to put in hard work and practice with real GRE questions. Why are the GRE Official Guides the very best place to start your GRE preparation, other than the free PowerPrep software? Because the questions in these books are super-realistic. They are just like the questions on the real GRE, because these books are written by the test-maker and use actual GRE questions. Don't waste your time and money practicing on questions made by any other companies--these are merely inferior

imitations of the real thing. If you must use other materials for test strategy and learning, then that's fine, and in most cases necessary, but try your best to stick to official questions whenever possible. Like most Kaplan books shortly after their release, dozens of five-star reviews of this book are sure to quickly appear. I would urge you to read those reviews carefully, and to evaluate your sources of information critically, in order to determine which reviews are written by actual GRE test takers, and which ones are not. Here are my recommendations for GRE practice, strategy, and learning guides that are superior to Kaplan's.

- 1) The free PowerPrep software from ETS, which includes 2 full CATs, a Test Preview Tool, an untimed practice test (same as Test #1), and Extended Time options.
- 2) The Official Guide to the GRE, 3rd edition: *The Official Guide to the GRE General Test, Third Edition*
- 3) The GRE Super Power Pack, 2nd edition: *Official GRE Super Power Pack 2/E (Test Prep)*
- 4) Manhattan Prep Strategy Guides: *Manhattan Prep GRE Set of 8 Strategy Guides (Manhattan Prep GRE Strategy Guides)*
- 5) Manhattan Prep 5-Lb Book of GRE Practice Questions: *5 lb. Book of GRE Practice Problems (Manhattan Prep GRE Strategy Guides)*
- 6) Magoosh: *GRE Prep by Magoosh*
- 7) Barron's: *Barron's GRE, 22nd Edition*
- 8) McGraw-Hill: *McGraw-Hill Education Preparation for the GRE Test 2017 3rd Edition*
- 9) Cliff's Notes: *CliffsNotes Math Review for Standardized Tests 3rd Edition*

For my full list of GRE prep recommendations, google "GRE Action Plan."

You might be able to use this for review, if you already know your math. But, I found it impossible to learn from this book. Specifically, I had not done this type of math in a long time and I found it impossible to get what I needed from this publication. I had much more success with another book called "a systematic approach" which covers math concepts only and not verbal questions.

Good content but having it on the e reader is dreadful. Didn't want to have to screw around as much as I did.

I only needed the Analytical writing portion of the GRE, so that's the only section I looked at. I also had a masters degree prior to taking the GRE, so my experience writing may have influenced my scores, but I found that this book was a great refresher. It provided great insight into what was expected of the Analytical Writing portion of the test, and I believe it helped me because it clearly stated ways in which to word sentences and format responses for the writing part. I felt it was such a good refresher, I loaned it to a friend for her second attempt at the Analytical writing portion. Another great study aid that really helped me with the GRE is *Neutropix* - *Support*

Brain Function, Memory, Attention Span, Concentration & Clarity” it is an amazing supplement that enhances your memory, focus and cognition, great for studying.

Though I can't speak for how much this improves your score, seeing as I bought it before ever taking a test, I did feel it made me more aware of my weakpoints, to the point where I bought a vocabulary app for my iPhone, and used it to focus my weak vocab score.

Considering how negative this test is, this prep book is ideal. It has easy step-by-step explanations and makes this test seem a little less scary! I recommend this in conjunction with apps and flash cards! Good luck :)

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