## DEFINE YOUR GMAT STRATEGY

& YOUR OWN STUDY Plan

## Agenda of the Session





## What kind of questions should you ask

#### **OK TO ASK**

- 1. If I am proposing a strategy and you want to evaluate an alternate route
- 2. If you don't agree with something that I have said.
- 3. If you want to dig deeper into the examples that I am taking (to uncover the assumptions)

#### PLEASE AVOID!!

- 1. How many questions do you need to get correct to get 35
- 2. I have been preparing for 4 months but cannot get my Verbal score to improve.
- GMAT scoring in India is different that in US
- 4. Other questions of this kind

Part 1: Defining your Strategy

#### **AGENDA**

- 1 Defining your target split
- 2 Creating a study plan



This session and advice is for the average <u>non-native</u> test taker. Please ensure that you carefully evaluate whether and how this advice applies to you. E-GMAT and its employees are do not provide any guarantees and are not liable.

#### Strategy: What does it mean and why do we need one...

**Strategy**: A plan of action designed to achieve a particular goal.

**Good Strategy**: Provides maximum benefit with the least input by capitalizing on strengths... and overcoming the weakness

#### Hallmarks of Good strategy:

- Define a goal.
- 2. Analyze the situation and your current strengths
- 3. Have good assumptions.
- 4. Plan and execute.



A good strategy is personal, is devised by you, and has numerous checks to ensure that you are going in the right direction.



# **Building Common Ground**

- Addressing myths and misconceptions
- Agreeing on path forward



## **Building Common Ground.....**

#### Verbal Score >> Quant Score

**Impact:** Lack of focus on quant leads to un-realized potential

**Truth**: Verbal only slightly more important than quant.

GMAT Score	Quant Score	Verbal Score
700	43 (68)	43 (96)
700	50 (94)	34 (69)
700	49 (88)	36 (78)
700	47 (79)	40 (89)



Truth: Overall GMAT score is more important

Ask an **adcom**, all things equal which score would she prefer 700 (Q50, V34) or 670 (Q47, V36)

- TAKE AWAY
- 1. Quant score -9/10 = Verbal score with the same percentile
- 2. Total score for a target GMAT score more or less independent.



### Breakout scores for 700 for a good applicant:

	Quant whiz	Engineer	Commence/Art student
Target Quant Score	Q = 50, 51	Q = 47-49	Q = 44-46
Target Quant Percentile	94%-99%	77% - 88%	70% - 77%
Target Verbal Score	V = 34/35	V = 37/38	V = 40-43
Target Verbal Percentile	66%-69%	78% - 81%	87% - 95%
Ensure Quant score.	Q = 49	Q = 46/47	Q = does not matter



Capitalize on your strengths first before focusing on the weakness.



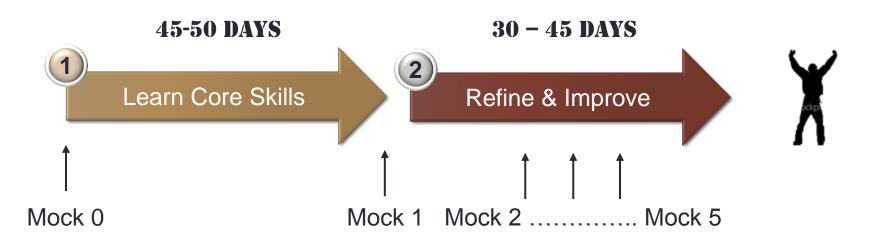
# **Creating your Study Plan**

An integrated approach using e-GMAT and Grockit

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						(630, Q47, V30) (RC 7/13, CR 8/12, SC 8
						Define your Q Weakness
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Work on your Q Weakness - revise theory	Work on your Q Weakness -	Work on your Q Weakness -	Prepare for next mock. Revise all previous mocks and all sections	Mock test	Revise mock, notice the area for improvement	Tackle SC
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Tackle SC	sc	sc	sc	sc	Prepare for next mock. Revise all previous mocks and all sections	mock. Revise a
6	17	18	19	20	21	22
		RC (holiday)	RC	RC	RC	RC
Mock test	Break 24	25	26	27	28	29
repare for next nock. Revise all previous mocks and all sections		CR	CR	CR	CR	Prepare for ne mock. Revise a previous mock and all section
0	31	Notes:				
Mock test						



## High level 90 day plan



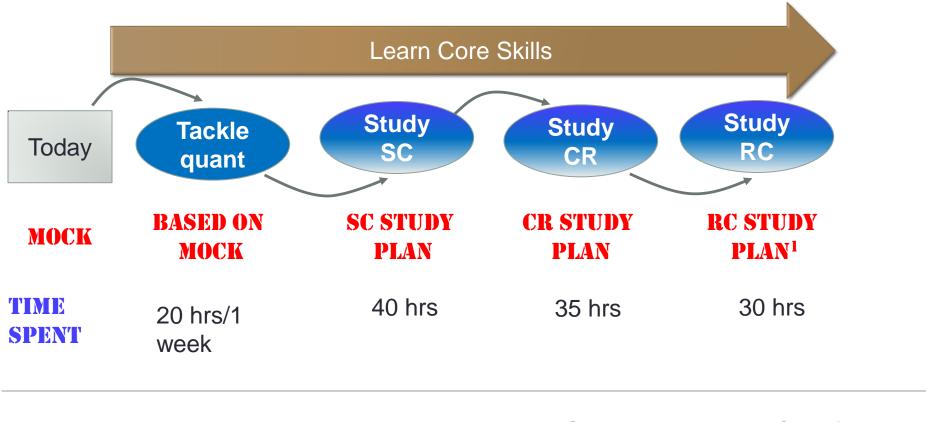
- ⇒ Assumptions: 20 hrs per week; 4 weeks per month (2 days off)
- ⇒ Access to OG and other relevant material



Most non-natives require 200+ hrs of effort to achieve their dream score



#### Use Case: Engineer, who has recently scored 560 on the Mock 0



WHERE TO STUDY Any good quant book

- 1. E-GMAT
- 2. OG 12
- 3. Verbal Review
- 1. E-GMAT
- 2. OG 12
- 3. Verbal Review
- 1. E-GMAT (Live Sessions)
- 2. OG 12
- 3. Verbal Review



## **Sentence Correction**

Type of Learning

Verbal Score Verbal Score

Time (hours)

> 30

< 30

·	Concept	Subject Verb - Must Exist	0.5	
	Concept	Subject Verb - Agree in Number	0.5	
į.	Concept	Subject Verb - Always Singular Subjects	0.5	
	Concept	Pronouns	0.5	
	Concept	Verb Tenses - I	0.5	
	Concept	Verb Tenses - II	0.75	
	Concept	Verb Sequencing	0.75	
	Process	Level 1 Application file 1	1	
	Process	OG questions L1 App File 1	2	
	Concept	Introduction to Modifiers	0.25	
Level 1	Concept	Types of Modifiers	0.5	
	Concept	Correcting modifier errors	0.5	
	Concept	Introduction to parallelism	0.25	
	Concept	Parallelism identify and correct	0.5	
	Concept	Parallelism helpful tips	0.5	
	Concept	Idioms standard expressions	0.5	
į	Concept	Idioms - quantities	0.5	
	Process	Level 1 Application file 2	1	
10 7700	Process	OG questions L1 App File 2	2	o TING
16 HRS	Process	Level 1 Application file 3	1	8 HRS
	Process	OG questions L1 App File 3	1.25	
	Process	revel i Qualifying exercise		
	Process	Level 2 Application file 1	1	
	Process	OG questions L2 App File 1	1.5	
	Concept	Subject Verb- Make sense	0.5	
	Concept	Subject Verb - Words that change number	0.5	
	Concept	Verb - Conditional	0.5	
	Concept	Verb - Subjunctive	0.5	
	Process	Level 2- Application file 2	1	
	Process	OG questions L2 App File 2	1	
(Level 2)	Concept	Modifiers - Relative pronouns	0.75	
	Concept	Modifiers - Verbing	0.75	
	Concept	Parallelism Comparisons	0.75	
	Concept	Idioms - Comparisons	0.5	i
	Concept	Idioms Functions I	0.5	
	Concept	Idioms Functions II	0.5	!
	Process	Level 2 application file 3	1.5	
16 HRS	Process	OG questions L2 App File 3	2.5	14 HRS
 	Process	Level 2- qualifying exercise	11	i
	Process	L3 Application File 1	1	
	Process	L3 Application File 2	1	
(Level 3)	Process	OG questions L3 App File	2	
	Process	L3 Application File 3	1	
	Process	OG questions L3 App File	2	a a
8 HRS	Process	L3 Qualifiying Exercise	1	8 HRS
		@ · e-	GMAT	
	SC Course	Total Time	40	

Concept

## **HOW TO STUDY**

on GMAT Verbal using e-GMAT and Grockit



#### Why do Non- Natives Struggle

Jacob is now 12 years younger than Michael. If 9 years from now Michael will be twice as old as Jacob, how old will Jacob be in 4 years?

A) 3

B) 7

C)15

D)21

E)25

How did you solve this question?

- By making equations
- Using number substitution
- Using formula

Your brain is already wired to solve this question. You do not need to consciously apply a formula or a shortcut to solve it.





For Verbal, we need to create these connections. That is why **PROCESS** is such a **KEY INGREDIENT.** 

#### **Jacob and Michel**

Jacob is now 12 years younger than Michael. If 9 years from now Michael will be twice as old as Jacob, how old will Jacob be in 4 years?

- A) 3
  - B) 7
- C)15
- D)21
- E)25

#### Today:

$$J+12 = M$$

#### 9 years from Now

$$2*(J + 9) = M+9$$

$$2J+9 = M$$

#### Solving:

$$J+12 = 2J+9$$

J = 3 today and 7 = > 4 years from now.



#### Core Skills

- 1. Work with algebraic variables.
- 2. Convert statements into equations
- 3. Relate multiple equations
- 4. Solve equations

Which of these core skills do you need to learn? What about natives, particularly Americans?

#### Core Skills for Verbal

Correction Sentence

easoning Critical

- 1. Sentence Structure
- 2. Understand Meaning
- 3. Grammar

Process

#### e-GMAT Concepts

- Sentence Structure 1& 2
- Importance of Meaning
- 3. Concept files
- Application files

- 1. Read and Comprehend
- 2. Contextualize
- 3. Pre-think
- 4. Evaluate answer choices

Process

#### e-GMAT Concepts

- Prethinking for **Assumptions**
- Premise and Conclusion
- Concept files
- Application files

Comprehension Reading

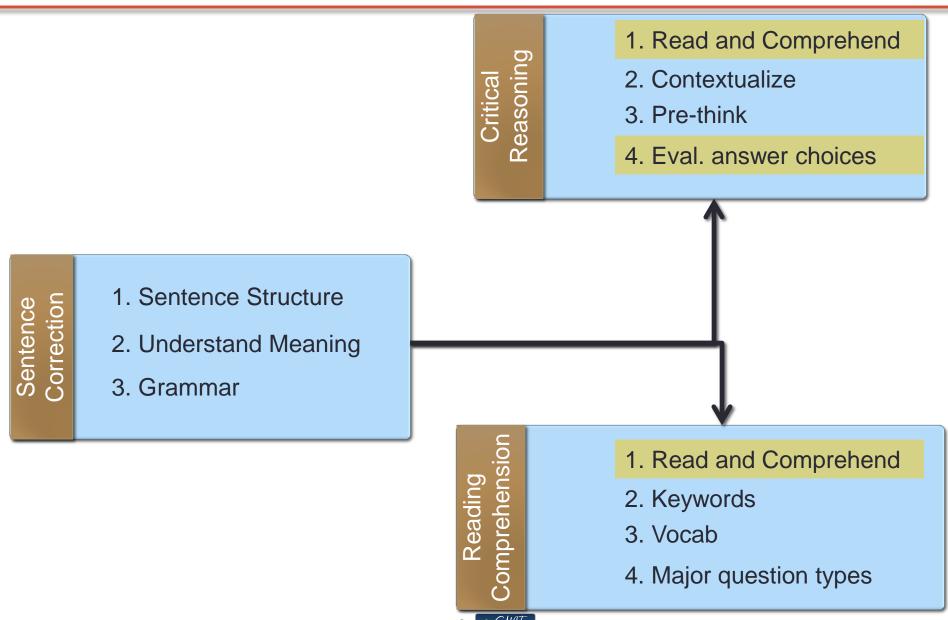
- 1. Read and Comprehend
- 2. Keywords
- 3. Vocab
- 4. Major question types

Process

#### e-GMAT Concepts

- Live Session files
- The rest coming up soon

#### How are these related?



#### **Basics**

Basics

Core Concepts

**Process** 

Refinement

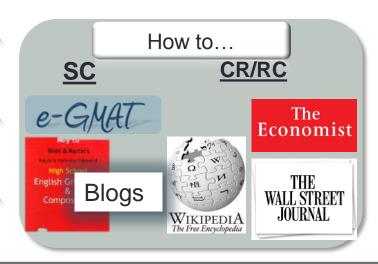
GMAT Readiness

#### What are Basics?

- SC: Basics of Grammar
- CR: complex statements, double negatives, Profit/loss, insurance systems
- RC: read and summarize long passages

Do I need to revise?

- Very few people need to revise all the basics
- Most people need to revise some
   Exception: If you already do enough "reading and writing"



How much is enough?

- Grammar: Basics covered in e-GMAT Basics lessons
- 2. 10 12 passages are enough for most people. (more about diligence)
- 3. Tricky statements: 30-40 (next project)



- Quality rather than quantity matters
- 2. You will know when you are improving.

#### Process – the key

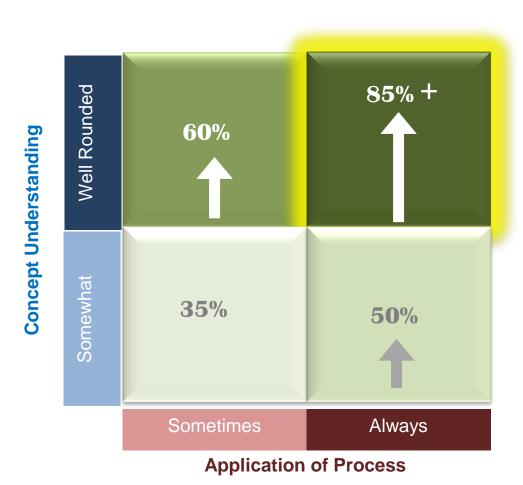
Basics

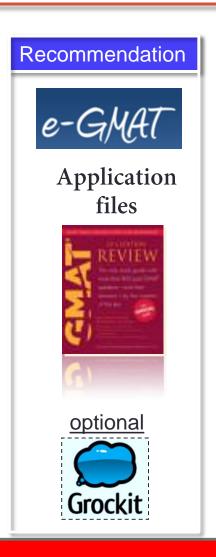
Core Concepts

Process

Refinement

GMAT Readines







- 1. Following a process => Much higher accuracy improvement
- 2. Following a process required a conscious effort

## **Process and Timing**

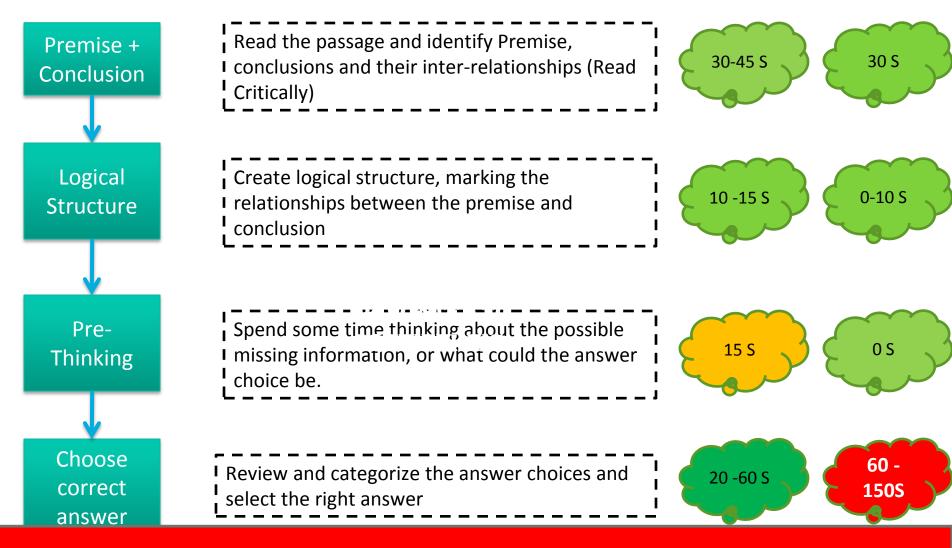


## Will I finish my exam on time



"Like hikers eventually carving out a depression along a trail, repeated practice stimulates cells in the memory circuit such that the circuit is reinforced and becomes stronger. This means it can be quickly turned on, and switched on through a variety of sensory cues". - **Dr. Judy Willis** 

## Process = higher accuracy + lower time



- Take Away
- 1. Following the process => reduces re-reading
- 2. Following the process => Easy and fast decision making

## **Summary Slide**

#### **General Guidelines**

- First establish your skill with SC. This will gently ease you into verbal in general
- 2. For both RC and CR, the key to ascertaining the correct answer is COMPREHENSION of passage.
- 3. Make sure that you do the lessons in sequence, and spend ample time to understand things.
- 4. Revise the key areas before you take Mock 1.

#### For Best Results

- 1. Follow the process and internalize it.
- 2. Do OG questions along with the Application files.
- 3. Don't move forward till they understand the concepts completely
- 4. Read 1 article/day

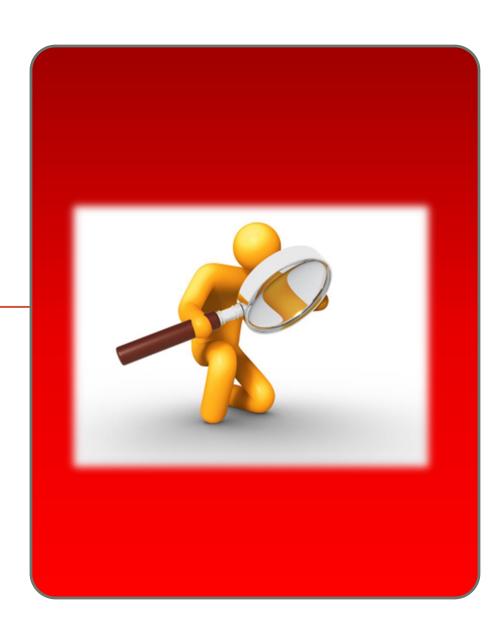
Remember, your Subscription allows you to attend 4 batches of live sessions. You also have the option to view recordings.

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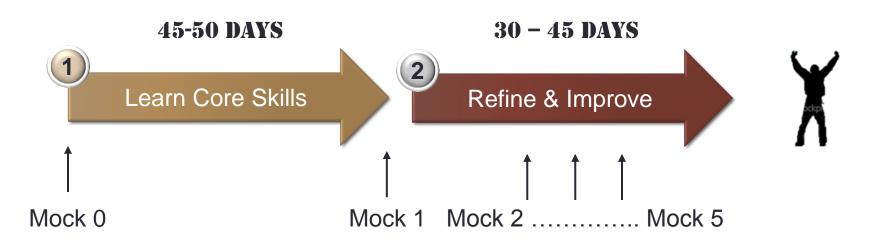


## REFINEMENT

Improving on your areas of weakness



## High level 90 day plan



- ⇒ Assumptions: 20 hrs per week; 4 weeks per month (2 days off)
- ⇒ Access to OG and other relevant material



Most non-natives require 200+ hrs of effort to achieve their dream score



## 3 Steps to building a good refinement plan

## REALISTIC EVALUATION

- Define your strength and Weakness
- How much time do you have (in useful hrs)

MOCK SCORES + GROCKIT

# CREATE A PATH FOR IMPROVEMENT

- 1. Define the sequence for improvement
- 2. Have reasonable assumptions for improvement
- 3. Create a plan

TAKE SMALL STEPS

## EXECUTE PROPERLY

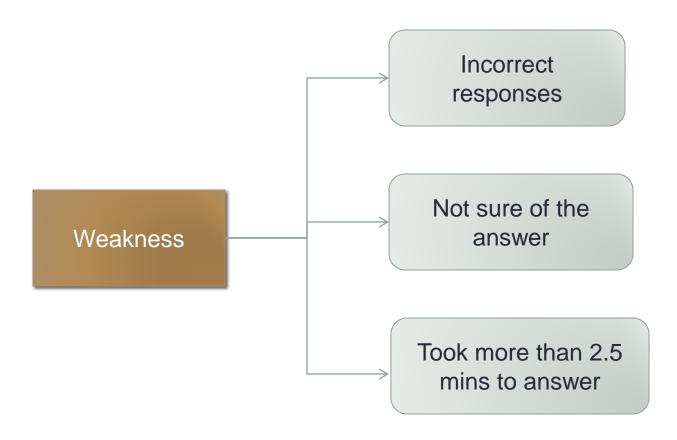
- Keep distractions away (trust your plan)
- Constantly evaluate your progress

ACCESS WEEKLY PROGRESS

- Plan => personal because everyone has different Strengths/Weaknesses
- · Executing on the strategy can help you be 2X more efficient..



#### **Areas of Weakness**



These 3 categories will apply to each section



## **Drill Down Example**

#### **VERBAL: ANALYSIS BY QUESTION FORMAT & DIFFICULTY**

QUESTION FORMAT	Total	Right	Wrong	Blank	% Right	Average Time RIGHT Answers	Average Time WRONG Answers	Average Difficulty RIGHT Answers	Average Difficulty WRONG Answers
				-					
Critical Reasoning	109	73	36	0	67%	/ 2:13	1:57	670	670
300 - 500	7	5	2		71%	1:09	1:13		
500 - 600	13	10	3		77%	1:39	1:26	The	Same
600 - 700	35	20	15		57%	2:25	1:54		
700 - 800	54	38	16	J	70%	2:25	2:12		
Reading Comprehension	72	37	35	0	51%	1:46	2:11	650	710
300 - 500	2	2	0	ĺ	100%	1:08	NA	Look	
500 - 600	9	7	2		78%	1:35	0:41	Look	SUK
600 - 700	27	17	10		63%	1:29	1:19		
700 - 800	34	11	23	J	32%	2:27	2:42		
Sentence Correction	89	58	29	2	65%	1:29	1:19	680	700
300 - 500	1	1	0	ì	100%	1:52	NA		
500 - 600	4	4	0		100%	1:24	NA	Very	Close
600 - 700	49	32	15		65%	1:24	1:03		
700 - 800	35	21	14	$\downarrow$	60%	1:36	1:37		

This report was generated with DATA from the following exams:



## **Analysis - CR**

	CONTENT AREA Critical Reasoning	Total 109	Right 73	Wrong 36	% Right 67%	Time RIGHT	Average Time WRONG Answers 1:57	
	Торіс	Total	Right	Wrong	% Right	Time RIGHT	Average Time WRONG Answers	
	Find the Assumption	21	13	8 (	62%	1:37	2:18	
	Draw a Conclusion	19	14	5	74%	2:15	2:29	
	Strengthen Conclusion	18	15	3	83%	2:20	1:46	
	Weaken Conclusion	20	10	10	50%	1:49	1:50	
	Analyze Arg Structure	11	9	2	82%	3:04	1:39	
	Evaluate A Conclusion	7	3	4 (	43%	2:54	1:58	
	Explain A Situation	9	7	2	78%	2:10	1:17	
WORST	Make an Inference about Premises	1	0	1	0%	NA	0:12	FASTEST
	Resolve a Problem	0	0	0	NA	NA	NA	
WORST	Provide an Example	1	0	1	0%	NA	2:11	
BEST	Restate the Conclusion	1	1	0	100%	1:10	NA	
BEST	Mimic the Argument	1	1	0	100%	3:45	NA	SLOWEST

- 1. Improve Strengthen, Evaluate and Weaken accuracy
- 2. Revise Conclusion and improve timing

## **Analysis-RC**

	CONTENT AREA Reading Comprehension	Total 72	Right 37	Wrong 35	% Right 51%	Average Time RIGHT Answers 1:46	Average Time WRONG Answers 2:11	
	Торіс	Total	Right	Wrong	% Right	Average Time RIGHT Answers	Average Time WRONG Answers	
	Inference	33	16	17	48%	2:09	1:58	
WORST	Specific Detail	28	12	16	43%	1:23	2:20	
BEST	Main Idea	8	7	1	88%	1:49	4:09	SLOWEST
	Passage Structure	3	2	1	67%	1:02	1:27	FASTEST
	Tone	0	0	0	NA	NA	NA	

This report was generated with DATA from the following exams:

- 1. Don't Panic
- 2. Take Better notes
- 3. Improve Reading



## **Analysis-SC**

	CONTENT AREA Sentence Correction	Total 89	Right 58	Wrong 29	% Right 65%	Average Time RIGHT Answers 1:29	Average Time WRONG Answers 1:19	
	Торіс	Total	Right	Wrong	% Right	Average Time RIGHT Answers	Average Time WRONG Answers	
	Subject Verb Agreement	9	6	3	67%	1:17	0:59	
	Pronouns	5	4	1	80%	1:05	0:07	FASTEST
	Modifiers	11	7	3	64%	2:06	2:29	SLOWEST
	Verbs	11	6	4	55%	1:31	1:44	
	Idioms	9	5	4	56%	1:08	1:09	
BEST	Concision	7	6	1	86%	2:08	0:04	
	Clarity of Meaning	6	4	2	67%	1:35	1:47	
BEST	Parallelism	7	6	1	86%	1:29	0:11	
	Comparisons	11	7	4	64%	1:16	1:24	
WORST	Quantity Expressions	7	2	5	29%	1:05	1:13	
	Connecting Punctuation	6	5	1	83%	1:02	0:50	
This report wa	as generated with DATA fron	the fol	lowing e	xams:				



## How to define your areas for improvement

#### **Sentence Correction**

- 1. I did not spend enough time to understand the meaning.
- 2. I did not do thorough analysis of the original sentence
- 3. There was a concept that I did not know existed
- 4. I knew the concept but did not know how to apply it.

#### **Critical Reasoning**

- Did not understand or comprehend the argument?
  - Didn't understand the information provided.
  - Unable to tie the premises to the conclusion.
  - Improper understanding of the context
- 2. Don't have the precise framework of choosing the correct answer
  - Lack of understanding of roles played by the correct answer.
- Could not infer/relate the information presented in the answer choices.

#### The process of creating a study plan

**STEPS** 

Define where you currently are

BEST PRACTICES

- 1. Using Mock tests
- 2. Using Grockit

**EXAMPLES** 

- 1. Historical passages on strengthen
- 2. Modifiers in complex sentences
- 3. Evaluate type questions

How much time you have

- 1. Treat working days and holidays differently
- 2. Have reasonable assumptions

Your assumptions for improvement

- 1. Have reasonable assumptions
- 2. Assume 70% efficiency while studying



Lets see this with an example: Quant Whiz

#### Use Case: Quant Whiz, who has recently scored 630 on the GMATPrep

Total score	Math score	V score	Math correct	Verbl correct	Overall Score	SC - Corr	CR- Corr	RC - Corr
630	47	30	30	23	RC 7/13 CR 8/12 SC 8/16	50	67	53



GOALS

Q49/50 V 29-31 Q49/50 V 32-34

SC = 70%

Q49/50

V 33-35

RC = 70%

SC = 70% +

Q50/51

V 35-37

CR= 75%+

RC = 70% +

SC =70%+

MOCK TEST



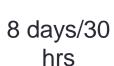






TIME TO MOCK

4 days/10 hrs



8 days/30 hrs 5 days/15 hrs

#### You define how much time you need.



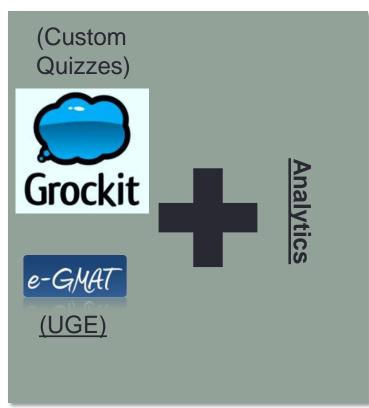
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> (630, Q47, V30)
						(RC 7/13, CR 8/12, SC 8/16
						Define your Q Weakness
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Work on your Q Weakness - revise theory	Work on your Q Weakness -	Work on your Q Weakness -	Prepare for next mock. Revise all previous mocks and all sections	Mock test	Revise mock, notice the area for improvement	Tackle SC
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Tackle SC	sc	sc	sc	sc	Prepare for next mock. Revise all previous mocks and all sections	_
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Mock test	Break	RC (holiday)	RC	RC	RC	RC
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Prepare for next mock. Revise all previous mocks and all sections		CR	CR	CR	CR	Prepare for next mock. Revise all previous mocks and all sections
30	31	Notes:				
Mock test						

## Refinement and Extra practice

**Refinement**: The improvement or clarification of something by the making of small change



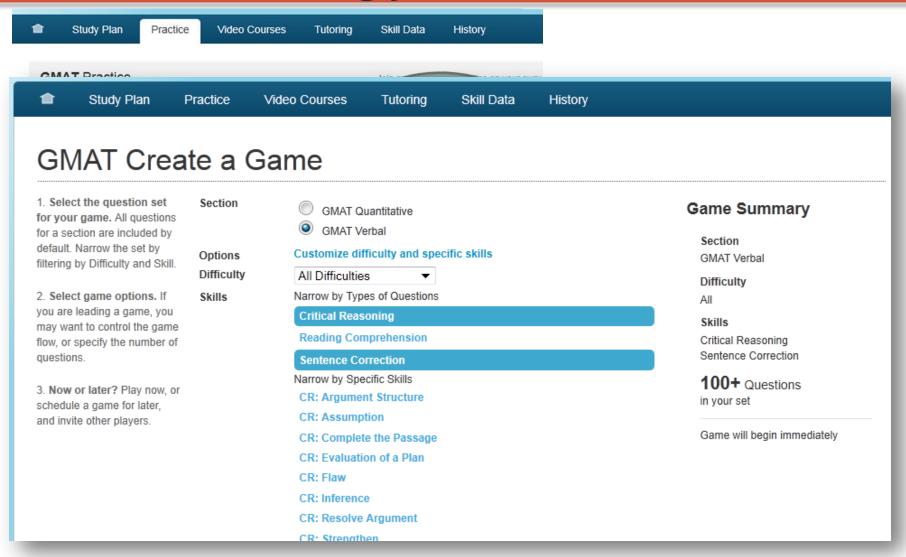






- 1. Refine while doing the concepts.
- 2. Mark questions for revision.

## Refinement: Testing yourself on Verbal

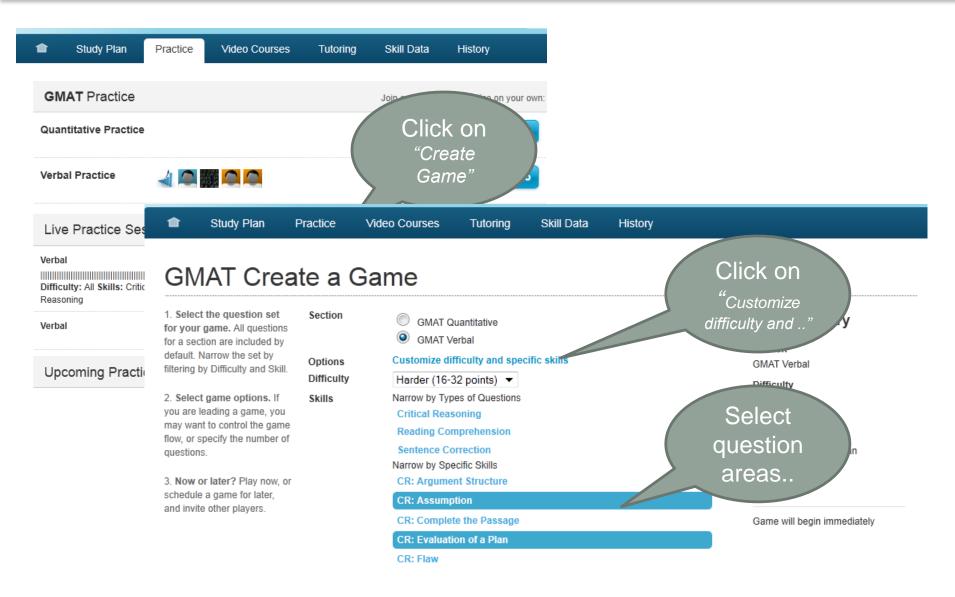


## Understanding your strengths and weakness

Study Plan Practice	Video Course	s Tutoring	Skill Data History	CMAT Score Prediction
Skill Data			ar Officulties ▼ All Time	GMAT Score Prediction
Sections &	Questions Av	erage Accu		(Range: 590-710)
Skills	Answered Tir	THE STREET	int Correct)	
GMAT GMAx verbus	803	1:06	63%	44 Quantitative
CR: Inference	6	The same of	**	35 Verbal
RC: Inference	14	1:08	21%	Improve the accuracy of this result to answering more questions.
Reading Comprehension	27	1:13	22%	
CR: Complete the Passage	4	1:34	25%	GMAT Achievements
RC Supporting Ideas	8	1:49	25%	Quantitative Challenge 5/16/2011
CR: Strengthen	27	1.28	52%	61st percentile  Verbal Challenge
SC Verb Form	117	0:45	53%	5/16/2011 94th percentile
CR: Evaluation of a Plan	26	1:14	54%	Quantitative Challenge 5/29/2011
CR: Assumption	20	1:32	55%	70th percentile
SC Diction	65	0:54	55%	Verbal Challenge 5/20/2011 79th percentile
SC Mass/count words	11	1:00	55%	Quantitative Challenge
SC: Noun-verb agreement	33	0:51	55%	5/22/2011 70th percentile
SC Agreement	62	0:53	60%	Verbal Challenge 5/22/2011
SC: Wordy/Imprecise/Redundant	74	0:57	61%	81st percentile  Quantitative Challenge
SC Prepositions	28	0:46	61%	6/5/2011 80th percentile
SC Grammatical Construction	51	0:52	63%	Verbal Challenge 6/6/2911
Sentence Correction	380	0:52	63%	84th percentile
SC Rhetorical Construction	64	0:53	63%	Verbal Challenge 7/10/2011
SC Idioms	141	0:54	64%	81st percentile  Quantitative Diagnostic
Critical Reasoning	150	1:20	64%	5/15/2011 61st percentile
SC Parallelism	135	0:57	64%	Verbal Diagnostic 5/15/2011
South and section of	THE REAL PROPERTY.		THE RESERVE OF THE PERSON NAMED IN	313271

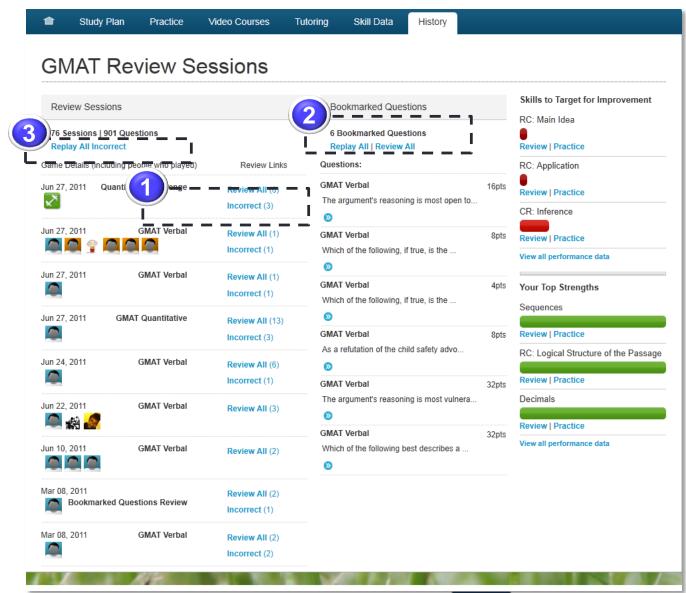


## How to create custom quizzes





#### Refinement: Reviewing the questions that you answered incorrectly





#### Many have applied this process.

"My first CAT score was 700, first test of GMATprep. I knew I had a solid quant background, so verbal would be the tougher cookie for me. This is why I devoted my entire time to verbal. I particularly found a very useful post (it's on the old forum - I can't find it right now) from this guy who scored 790. He suggested starting with your weaker points: practice your weakest section for a week or two, then start on your second weakest, but not without devoting some of your time to the previous section. For instance, say CR is your weakest part, then second comes RC. You practice CR exclusively for one or two weeks, then start with RC. But in the two weeks devoted to RC, you will also "squeeze in" some CR questions, just to keep your skills fresh. "

- Dana J (GMAT Score 770) excerpt from her GMAT Strategy

I looked up my previous mock test scores and realized that I needed to improve the most on my SC, and then CR. RC needed some improvement but not as much as CR. I devoted the next 2 weeks to improve SC; read the MGMAT SC again for the first 5 days and then did the eGMAT SC course for the remaining. Gave MGMAT mock (#3) and score 36 on verbal (12/15 SC, 8/14 CR, 8/12 RC). Was happy with my progress. Devoted the next 5 days to complete the egmat SC course.

- Aprajita (GMAT Score 760), excerpt from her GMAT strategy

May 2011, Target SC, June 2011 Target CR, July 2011 Target RC
- archimittal01, The 100 day plan to score 740



## **QUESTIONS**

