

GMAT SYLLABUS



(New Focus Edition)

Exam Format

The GMAT Focus Edition is a **2 hours 15 minutes** computer-adaptive test designed to assess skills critical for success in graduate business programs. The exam features three equally weighted sections with modern, data-driven question types.



SECTION	QUESTIONS	TIME	QUESTION TYPE	CALCULATOR
Quantitative Reasoning	21	45 min	Problem Solving	✗ Not Allowed
Verbal Reasoning	23	45 min	Reading Comprehension, Critical Reasoning	✗ Not Allowed
Data Insights	20	45 min	Data Sufficiency, Multi-Source Reasoning, Table Analysis, Graphics Interpretation, Two-Part Analysis	✓ Available
TOTAL	64	135 min	+1 optional 10-minute break	

Note: Unlike previous versions, the GMAT Focus Edition has no Analytical Writing Assessment (AWA) and no Sentence Correction, making it more focused on practical business skills.

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Section Ordering:

GMAT allows you to choose your desired section order! This flexibility allows you to tackle your strongest section first for confidence or save it for when you're most focused.

Section ordering

Select the order in which you want to take the test

Note: On Test Day, you will have 2 minutes to make your selection. If you do not make your selection within 2 minutes, this exam will automatically default to the following order: Quantitative Reasoning, Verbal Reasoning, Data Insights.

Once you select order, you will NOT be able to return to this screen.

☐ Quantitative Reasoning ☐ Verbal Reasoning ☐ Data Insights	☐ Verbal Reasoning ☐ Data Insights ☐ Quantitative Reasoning	☐ Data Insights ☐ Verbal Reasoning ☐ Quantitative Reasoning
☐ Quantitative Reasoning ☐ Data Insights ☐ Verbal Reasoning	☐ Verbal Reasoning ☐ Quantitative Reasoning ☐ Data Insights	☐ Data Insights ☐ Quantitative Reasoning ☐ Verbal Reasoning

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Question Review & Edit

This new GMAT feature provides greater flexibility in managing your responses. During a section, you can flag any question you wish to revisit. After answering all questions in that section, you'll be taken to the review screen, provided time remains. This screen displays a complete question list, highlighting your flagged items. You can then select any question to review it and have the option to change up to three of your answers.



However, if the section's time expires before you finish, you will skip this screen and automatically move to the next part of the test.

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Fee

The cost, applicable local taxes, and relevant regulations for the GMAT exam vary by location. These details are determined by the physical location of your test centre or your registered address when taking the exam online. For India, the details for Test Centre-specific fees are as follows:

Service Charges	
GMAT Exam	US \$275
Additional Score Report	US \$35 each
Reschedule Fees	
More than 60 days before appointment	US \$55
15–60 days before appointment	US \$110
14 days or less before appointment	US \$165
Cancellation Fees	
More than 60 days before appointment	US \$110 Refund
15–60 days before appointment	US \$80 Refund
14 days or less before appointment	US \$55 Refund



Note: In India, an 18% GST is applicable on the registration fee; thus, the estimated cost of registering for the GMAT (based on Mar 2026 exchange rate) is approximately ₹29,500.

Test Day ID Requirements

On your test day, you will need to show a valid and acceptable form of identification. Please be aware that the specific ID requirements can differ depending on your testing location. In India, on the exam day, you must present a valid international travel **passport**.

Number of Attempts

Both in-person and online GMAT tests count toward the limit of five attempts within any 12-month period. While there is no restriction on how many times you can take the test over your lifetime, you are required to wait a minimum of 16 days between each exam.

SCORING SYSTEM

The GMAT uses a sophisticated linear scoring architecture where your total score directly correlates to the sum of your three sectional scores, which in turn are calculated using an adaptive algorithm.



Score Component	Range	Percentile Example
Total Score	205-805	705 = 98 th percentile
Quantitative Reasoning	60-90	86 = 91 th percentile
Verbal Reasoning	60-90	85 = 94 th percentile
Data Insights	60-90	84 = 97 th percentile

Note: GMAT offers more scoring precision than GRE at higher ranges, with 14 distinct scores in the 96th-100th percentile range alone!

How It Works:

- **Section-level setup:** Each section adapts independently based on your performance
- **Question-level adaption:** Correct answers → harder questions → higher potential score ceiling
- **Equal weighting:** Each section contributes 33.3% to your total score



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[Quantitative Reasoning](#)

[Verbal Reasoning](#)

[Data Insights](#)

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Formula

$[(Q + V + DI - 180) \times (20/3)] + 205$, rounded to the nearest multiple of 5 that ends in a 5

Note: For approximately every 1.5-point increase in sum $\rightarrow$ +10 points total score

Total Score Percentiles

Score	Percentile	Status	Target School
735–805	100%	Elite Top 0.1%	Harvard, Stanford, Wharton
715–725	99%	Elite Top 1%	All M7 + Top Scholarships
705	98%	Exceptional	M7 Schools, Major Scholarships
695	97%	Excellent	Top 15 MBA Programs
685	96%	Very Strong	Top 20 MBA Programs
675	95%	Strong	Top 30 MBA Programs
665	92%	Competitive	Top 50 MBA Programs
645	87%	Good	ISB, Regional Top Programs
625	79%	Solid	Most MBA Programs
605	70%	Average+	Wide Range of Programs
585	61%	Average	Many MBA Programs

Note: The median GMAT score is approximately 565–575 (51st percentile). Scoring above 645 puts you in the top 13% of all test-takers globally.

Quantitative Reasoning

Duration: 45 minutes / Questions: 21

The QR section evaluates your ability to:

- ✓ **Reason quantitatively:** solve mathematical problems using logical thinking
- ✓ **Apply foundational concepts:** use arithmetic and algebra effectively
- ✓ **Interpret data:** understand numerical relationships and patterns
- ✓ **Solve efficiently:** work through problems with time-effective strategies

Note: The GMAT tests application of concepts, not memorisation. You must understand *WHY* formulas work, not just *WHAT* they are.

Question Categorization

By Question Type

- Standard multiple-choice format (5 options: A, B, C, D, E)
- Real-world business scenarios requiring mathematical analysis
- No geometry questions (major change from Classic GMAT)
- Emphasis on algebraic manipulation and arithmetic reasoning



By Context

Pure Context [40% of questions]

- Abstract mathematical problems
- Number relationships without real-world scenarios
- Focus on theoretical concepts
- Example: ["If $x^2 - 5x + 6 = 0$, what are the possible values of x ?"]

Real Context [60% of questions]

- Business scenarios (pricing, profit, revenue)
- Real-world applications (travel, measurements, mixtures)
- Data interpretation from practical situations
- Example: ["A store offers a 20% discount on an item, then adds 8% sales tax. If the final price is \$259.20, what was the original price?"]

Note: GMAT Focus increasingly emphasises real-context questions that mirror actual business situations you will likely encounter in MBA programs.

Topics Breakdown

ARITHMETIC [50–55% of questions]

Topic	Subtopics	Importance	Remarks
Number Properties	Integers, Primes, Factors/Multiples, Divisibility, Even/Odd, LCM/GCF	★★★★★	Understanding properties → calculation
Fractions & Decimals	Operations, Conversions, Comparisons, Mixed Numbers	★★★★★	Simplification techniques critical
Percentages	Percent Change, Percent of Percent, Applications	★★★★★	Most tested topic – appears everywhere
Ratio & Proportion	Simple/Compound Ratios, Direct/Inverse Proportion, Scale	★★★★★	Foundation for word problems
Powers & Roots	Exponent Rules, Scientific Notation, Square Roots	★★★★★	Essential for algebra
Averages	Mean, Median, Mode, Weighted Averages	★★★★	Concepts over calculation
Statistics	Range, Standard Deviation (basic), Data Sets	★★★★	Conceptual understanding
Counting Methods	Permutations, Combinations, Basic Probability	★★★★	Formula application
Sets	Union, Intersection, Venn Diagrams, Overlapping Sets	★★★★	Visual reasoning important

@Strategy: Master percentages, ratios, and number properties first – these appear in 60%+ of questions, often combined with other topics.

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ALGEBRA [45–50% of questions]

Topic	Subtopics	Importance	Remarks
Algebraic Expressions	Simplification, Factoring, Expansion, Polynomials	★★★★★	Foundation for all algebra
Linear Equations	One Variable, Two Variables, System of Equations	★★★★★	Most frequent algebra type
Quadratic Equations	Factoring, Quadratic Formula, Roots, Vieta's Formulas	★★★★★	Appears in 15–20% of questions
Inequalities	Linear, Quadratic, Absolute Value Inequalities	★★★★★	Testing logical reasoning
Functions	Exponent Rules, Scientific Notation, Square Roots	★★★★	Conceptual focus
Exponents & Radicals	Mean, Median, Mode, Weighted Averages	★★★★★	Integration with other topics
Sequences & Series	Range, Standard Deviation (basic), Data Sets	★★★	Pattern recognition

🎯Strategy: GMAT algebra questions often test conceptual understanding rather than computational ability. Don't just solve → understand the underlying relationships!

WORD PROBLEMS [Integrated throughout]

Topic	Subtopics	Typical Approach
Work & Time	Individual rates, Combined work, Pipes & Cisterns	Create equations from rates
Linear Equations	One Variable, Two Variables, System of Equations	Draw diagrams, use formulas strategically
Quadratic Equations	Factoring, Quadratic Formula, Roots, Vieta's Formulas	Organize given information clearly
Inequalities	Linear, Quadratic, Absolute Value Inequalities	Understand time periods
Functions	Exponent Rules, Scientific Notation, Square Roots	Use mixture tables
Exponents & Radicals	Mean, Median, Mode, Weighted Averages	Create timeline diagrams

🎯Strategy: Word problems combine 2–3 topics (e.g., ratios + percentages + algebra). Break complex problems into smaller steps, translating words into mathematical expressions systematically.

| VERBAL REASONING

Duration: 45 minutes / Questions: 23

The VR section evaluates your ability to:

- ✓ **Comprehend texts:** extract main ideas, understand structure, make inferences
- ✓ **Think critically:** analyse arguments, identify assumptions, evaluate evidence
- ✓ **Analyse logically:** understand cause-effect relationships, recognise reasoning patterns
- ✓ **Apply concepts:** apply ideas to new situations beyond the passage

i Note: No Sentence Correction in GMAT Focus Edition! The exam now focuses purely on comprehension and reasoning, not grammar.

| Question Categorization

A. Reading Comprehension (RC) [~60% of questions]

→ Passage Characteristics:

- ✓ **Length:** 200–350 words
- ✓ **Topics:** Business, science, social sciences, humanities
- ✓ **Structure:** Argument-based or informative
- ✓ **Questions per passage:** 3–4 questions



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→ RC Question Sub-Types:

Question Type	Frequency	What It Tests	Key Approach
Main Idea or Primary Purpose	25%	Understanding overall passage intent	Identify author's goal, not just topic
Supporting Ideas or Details	20%	Locating specific information	Efficient scanning, avoid misremembering
Inference	25%	Drawing logical conclusions	Must be directly supported, not assumed
Function	10%	Understanding why author includes info	Focus on rhetorical purpose
Logical Structure	10%	Analyzing argument flow	Identify how ideas connect
Application	5%	Applying passage concepts	Parallel reasoning to new scenarios
Style and Tone	5%	Identifying author's attitude	Look for evaluative language

 **Strategy:** Do not memorise details! Focus on passage structure and the author's purpose. Most answers come from understanding relationships between ideas, not specific facts.

→ Classification by Idea Type:

Stated Ideas (30–40%):

- Information explicitly mentioned in the passage
- Main points directly articulated by the author
- Details provided in the text
- Example: ["According to the author, the company's revenue declined because ..."]



Inferred Ideas (60–70%):

- Information logically derived but not explicitly stated
- Conclusions that must be true based on the passage
- Assumptions underlying arguments
- Example: ["The passage suggests that ..."], ["It can be inferred that ..."]

Note: For inference questions, the answer must be definitively supported by the passage – not just possibly true or likely true. Do not bring in outside knowledge!

→ Topics Covered

Topic	Frequency	Characteristics
Business/ Economics	30%	Market trends, corporate strategy, economic theory
Social Sciences	25%	Psychology, sociology, anthropology
Natural Sciences	25%	Biology, physics, astronomy, geology
Humanities	20%	History, philosophy, arts, literature

🎯Strategy: You do not need expertise in these areas - questions test reading comprehension, not subject knowledge. However, broad reading helps build comfort with diverse topics.

B. Critical Reasoning (CR) [~60% of questions]

→ Passage Characteristics:

- ✓ Length: 50-100 words (typically 3-5 sentences)
- ✓ Structure: Usually presents an argument with premise(s) and conclusion
- ✓ Format: Argument-based scenarios requiring logical evaluation

→ CR Question Sub-Types by Skill:

(a) Analysis(25%)

- ✓ Understanding argument structure
- ✓ Identifying premises and conclusions
- ✓ Recognizing implicit assumptions
- ✓ Typical Question: ["The argument relies on which of the following assumptions?"]

(b) CONSTRUCTION (20%)

- ✓ Identifying what can be logically concluded
- ✓ Finding the missing information needed
- ✓ Drawing inferences from given facts
- ✓ Typical Question: ["Which of the following can be properly inferred from the passage?"]

(c) CRITIQUE (40%)

- ✓ Strengthen (15%): Identify evidence that supports the conclusion
- ✓ Weaken (15%): Find evidence that undermines the argument
- ✓ Flaw (10%): Recognise logical errors in reasoning
- ✓ Typical Question: ["Which of the following, if true, most strengthens/weakens ...?"]

(d) PLAN (15%)

- ✓ Evaluate the effectiveness of proposed solutions
- ✓ Assess criteria for plan success
- ✓ Identify relevant factors for decision-making
- ✓ Typical Question: "Which of the following would be most useful to evaluate the plan?"

 **Strategy:** Identify the conclusion, understand what the argument assumes, then predict what type of information would strengthen/weaken it. Look at the choices thereafter!

→ Critical Reasoning Argument Types:

Argument Type	Description	Common Setups
Causal Arguments	Claim X causes Y	Challenge cause-effect relationship
Statistical Arguments	Use data/surveys to conclude	Question sample representativeness
Arguments by Analogy	Compare two situations	Show analogy is weak/flawed
Plan/Prediction Arguments	Propose solution or forecast	Identify overlooked factors



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| DATA INSIGHTS (DI)

Duration: 45 minutes / Questions: 20

The DI section evaluates your ability to:

- ✓ **Analyse data:** interpret complex data from multiple formats
- ✓ **Reason quantitatively:** apply math to real-world data scenarios
- ✓ **Reason using verbal cues:** understand textual information and conditions
- ✓ **Think critically:** synthesise and evaluate the sufficiency and relevance of data

i Note: DI is the newest section and tests “data literacy” – one of the most valuable skills in modern business. Some MBA programs specifically request DI scores separately!

| Question Categorization

[A] By Type:

1. DATA SUFFICIENCY (DS) [30–40% of questions]

→ Structure:

- ✓ Question stem presenting a problem
- ✓ Two statements providing additional information
- ✓ Determine if statements are sufficient to answer (individually or combined)
- ✓ Answer Options (Always the Same):
 - A) Statement (1) ALONE is sufficient, but statement (2) alone is not sufficient
 - B) Statement (2) ALONE is sufficient, but statement (1) alone is not sufficient
 - C) BOTH statements TOGETHER are sufficient, but NEITHER alone is sufficient
 - D) EACH statement ALONE is sufficient
 - E) Statements (1) and (2) TOGETHER are NOT sufficient

@Strategy: Follow the AD-BCE approach:

Test Statement (1): Sufficient? → A or D possible | Not sufficient? → BCE possible

Test Statement (2) alone: Sufficient? → Choose A or D | Not sufficient? → Choose C or E

Test both together: Sufficient? → C | Not sufficient? → E

→ DS Sub-Types:

Type	Description	Key Challenge
Quantitative DS	Pure math problems	Need exact value vs. range
Logic-based DS	Logic-based conditions	Understanding two or more logical constraints
Tabulated DS	Data in tables	Navigating complex table structures

Note: Data Sufficiency tests your ability to determine *WHAT* information is needed, not just *HOW* to solve. This mirrors real business situations where gathering the right data is as important as analysis.

2. TABLE ANALYSIS [15% of questions]

→ Structure:

- ✓ Large sortable table with multiple columns and rows
- ✓ Similar to an Excel spreadsheet
- ✓ Multiple statements (typically 3) to evaluate as True/False or Yes/No
- ✓ Can click column headers to sort data



→ Skills Required:

- ✓ Efficient data scanning
- ✓ Sorting and filtering mentally or using table features
- ✓ Statistical calculations (percentages, averages, correlations)
- ✓ Pattern recognition

Strategy: Do not analyze entire table at once! Read the question first, then sort/scan only relevant data. Each statement is independent.

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3. GRAPHICS INTERPRETATION [15% of questions]

→ Structure:

- ✓ Visual display: scatter plots, line graphs, bar charts, pie charts, box plots
- ✓ Fill-in-the-blank statements (select from dropdown menus)
- ✓ Usually 2 statements per graphic

→ Common Graph Types:

- ✓ Scatter Plots: Correlation, outliers, trends
- ✓ Bar Charts: Comparisons across categories
- ✓ Line Graphs: Trends over time, rate of change
- ✓ Pie Charts: Proportional relationships
- ✓ Statistical Curves: Normal distribution, percentiles

@Strategy: Identify axes, scales, units, and legends *FIRST*. Look for: trends (increasing/decreasing), extremes (max/min), comparisons (larger/smaller), and relationships (correlation/causation).

4. MULTI-SOURCE REASONING (MSR) [15-30% of questions]

→ Structure:

- ✓ 2-3 tabbed sources (text, tables, graphs, emails, reports)
- ✓ Information may complement, contradict, or be unrelated across tabs
- ✓ 3-4 questions per set

→ Question types:

- ✓ Yes/No, True/False, or standard multiple choice

→ Information Sources:

- ✓ Business memos/communications
- ✓ Policy projects
- ✓ Statistical reports
- ✓ Financial statements
- ✓ Research findings

→ Skills Required:

- ✓ Synthesise information across sources
- ✓ Identify discrepancies
- ✓ Recognise relevant vs. irrelevant data
- ✓ Draw conclusions from multiple data types

🎯Strategy: MSR mimics real business scenarios where you must evaluate multiple sources. Practice switching between tabs efficiently and keeping track of which source contains what information.

5. TWO-PART ANALYSIS [20–25% of questions]

→ Structure:

- ✓ Single question with TWO related parts to answer
- ✓ Table format: rows = answer choices, two columns for your selection
- ✓ Must select one answer for EACH column
- ✓ Can be quantitative, verbal, or mixed

→ Question Patterns:

- ✓ Find two values that satisfy the conditions simultaneously
- ✓ Evaluate trade-offs between options
- ✓ Identify relationships between two variables
- ✓ Solve systems of equations

🎯Strategy: Both answers must work TOGETHER. Test each combination logically before committing; eliminating impossible pairs can save significant time.

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[B]By Content:

1. Math-Related DI [60–70% of questions]:

- ✓ Data Sufficiency with quantitative concepts
- ✓ Table Analysis requiring calculations
- ✓ Graphics Interpretation with numerical data
- ✓ Mathematical relationships in Two-Part Analysis
- ✓ Focus: Arithmetic, algebra, percentages, ratios, statistics

2. Non-Math-Related DI [30–40% of questions]:

- ✓ Logical Data Sufficiency (textual conditions)
- ✓ Multi-Source Reasoning with primarily text
- ✓ Logical/verbal Two-Part Analysis
- ✓ Table Analysis with qualitative sorting
- ✓ Focus: Reading comprehension, logical reasoning, data organisation

i Note: Even “math” DI questions often require reading comprehension. Always parse the question carefully – many errors come from misunderstanding what’s being asked, not calculation mistakes.

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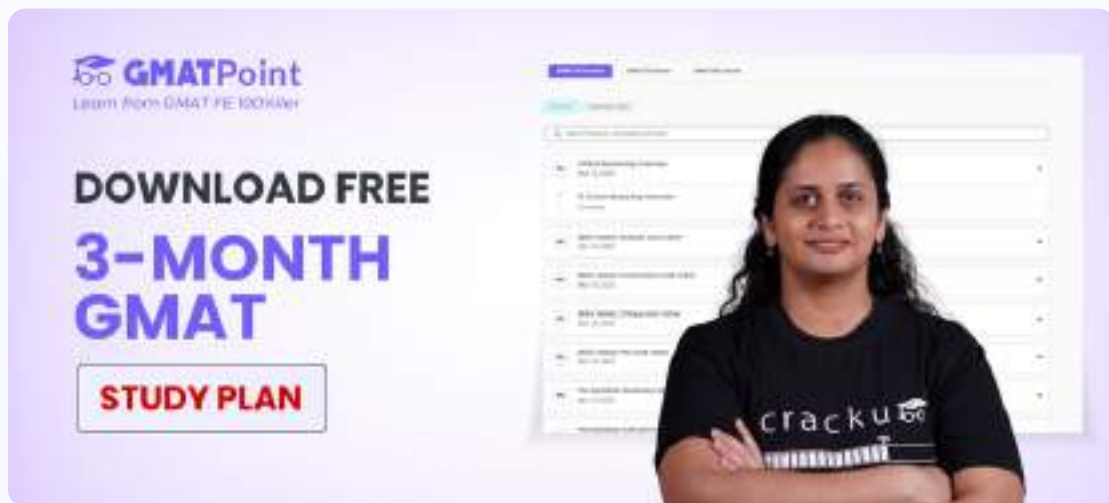
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1. When Should You Start Your GMAT Preparation?

The short answer? Sooner than you think. Ideally, you want to begin your prep about four to six months before your target test date. Why that early? Because GMAT prep isn't just about grinding questions; it's about understanding the test, identifying your weak areas, and improving gradually.

Also, keep your B-school deadlines in mind. You'll want your official score report ready at least a month before your first application is due, to leave room for retakes or any last-minute surprises. For instance, if you plan to apply by September, consider starting your prep by March or April, if not sooner.

The truth is, there's no magic day to start. But if you're even thinking about applying this year or next, start laying the groundwork now. Even light prep, like brushing up on quant basics or taking a diagnostic test, can go a long way. The GMAT rewards consistency, not cramming. So give yourself the time to build real confidence, not panic.

2. What is a 'Good' GMAT score?

A good GMAT score holds particular significance in various scenarios. If your grade point average (GPA) falls below the average for your target business schools, or if you lack a quant/data literacy background, a strong GMAT score can compensate for these shortcomings.

Determining what constitutes a good GMAT Focus Edition score requires a nuanced approach. A one-size-fits-all mentality won't serve us well in this scenario.

The key to defining a good GMAT score lies in understanding the expectations of your target MBA program. Start by examining the historical median or average GMAT score for that program and calculating the percentile position of this benchmark. This sets the stage for determining whether your score aligns with the program's expectations or if it needs improvement.

For example, for a program where the average score is typically in the 95th percentile - which would be around the 675 mark in the new scoring system - a 99th percentile score - i.e. a 705+ score on the new GMAT - would be considered great. To sum it up, defining what qualifies as a 'good' GMAT Focus Edition score hinges on evaluating your strengths and understanding the expectations of your target MBA program.

3. How Many Months Are Needed to Crack the GMAT?

Well, it depends on where you are starting from and where you want to go. But here's a realistic benchmark: for most test-takers, 3 to 4 months of solid prep - around 10-14 hours a week - is a sweet spot. That gives you enough time to build fundamentals, work through strategy, and take multiple mock tests.

But let's be honest: if you are aiming for a 700+, juggling work, or haven't touched math in years, you might need closer to 5 or 6 months. And that's totally fine. The GMAT isn't just about speed; it's about depth. Better to take a few extra weeks and walk in confidently than rush in underprepared.

Bottom line? It's not about how many months it takes; it's about how consistently you can prepare and improve each week. That's what separates good scores from great ones.

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