

GRE Verbal At-A-Glance Reference Sheet

Essential Section Information & Strategic Principles

GRE Verbal Reasoning - Quick Reference | GREguide.com

1) Test Structure

- Two **30-minute** sections
- About **20 questions per section** (varies slightly)
- Approximate question distribution (varies): **12 RC, 6 TC, 6 SE**

Note: exact counts vary by test form.

2) Scoring

Scale	130-170 (1-point increments)
Key percentiles*	150 = 47th 160 = 85th 163 = 90th 170 = 99th

Score goals by program type (quick guide):

- **Quant-heavy programs** (e.g., STEM/Econ): aim for **160+** or the program median.
- **General MS/MA programs**: aim for **155-160** and a balanced application.
- **Holistic/test-optional contexts**: align with stated ranges; avoid being far below the typical band.

**Percentiles are approximate and can shift slightly year to year.*

3) Timing Checkpoints (per 30-minute section)

Checkpoint	Target time remaining
After Q5	23-24 min remaining
After Q10	15-16 min remaining
After Q15	7-8 min remaining

4) Top 5 Strategic Principles

1. **First-section performance** heavily influences the difficulty of the second section (adaptive design).
2. Learn vocabulary in **word families** (root + related forms), not isolated words.
3. There is **no penalty for guessing** - never leave blanks.
4. For Reading Comprehension, read for **structure and purpose**, not just details.
5. Practice timing with **checkpoints** (Q5/Q10/Q15), not just average time-per-question.

Desk tip: Keep this sheet visible during timed practice sessions.