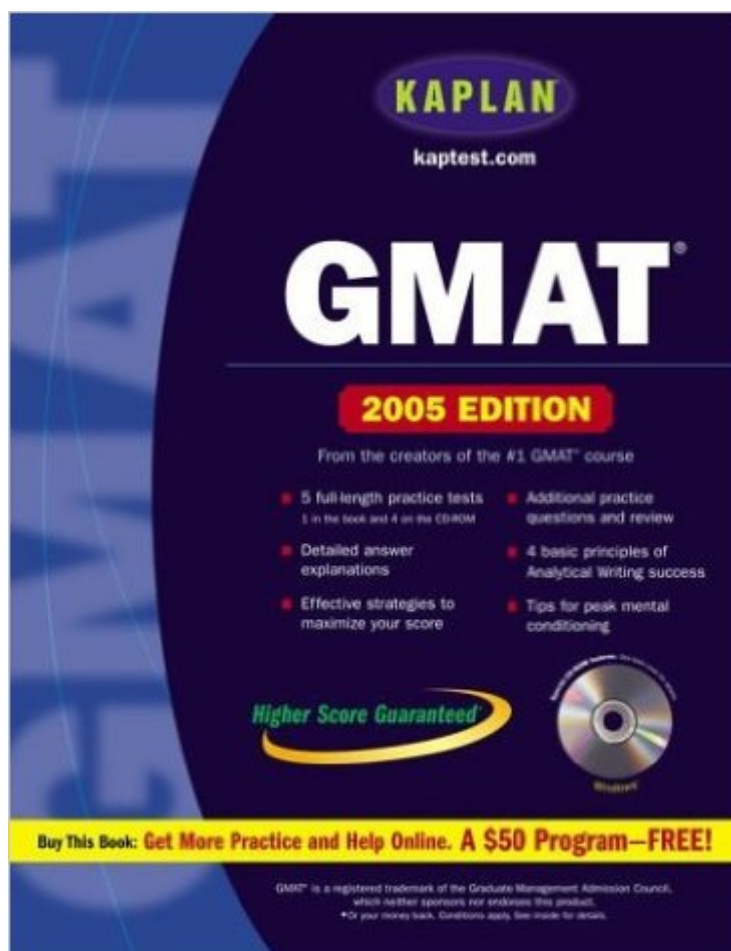


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Synopsis

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Book Information

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Customer Reviews

My review refers to an earlier edition of the Kaplan book, but should give you a good idea for what you'll get when you buy this book. The Kaplan GMAT book and the Official Guide for GMAT Review are two books you absolutely must get to be well prepared for the test. The lessons & tips included in the Kaplan book are a good way to get familiarized with the test. I also like the approach described in the book to attack CR questions in Verbal and the idioms and other tips for SC. The diagnostic test gives the much needed jolt by highlighting areas that you must concentrate on. The real value of this book is in the 4 CAT tests and practice sections included in the CD-ROM. The tests are much harder than the actual GMAT. Your actual GMAT score will likely be up to 100 points higher than your Kaplan score. My recommendation is to use the OG to practice questions a day before

attempting a practice test from Kaplan or the ETS Powerprep tests. You'll be amazed at how your score will actually improve on a test when you do some prep work with the OG the night before. Here are my scores from various tests: Kaplan - 670, 620, 640, 610 Powerprep - 770, 720 Princeton Review - 700, 690 (took only 2 tests, the CD was defective) Actual GMAT - 720/97% (Q49/90%, V39/89%) The Quant sections of the Kaplan tests are not exactly easy - so it was a good introduction to GMAT Quant. On the Verbal side, I definitely owe my score to OG - the explanations really helped me understand where I was going wrong, and I did not commit those mistakes again. I neglected Quant since this was more of a strength in my case, but I could have obviously done better than 90% in the actual test. Nevertheless, I'm happy with my score.

I've never written one of these before, but since the ones posted were so helpful for me, I felt that I must throw my two cents in. I purchased three guides before the GMAT: 1) Kaplan 2005, 2) Princeton Review 2005, and 3) The Official GMAT Guide. Here are my thoughts on each: 1) Kaplan: Buy it for the CD, especially the quant. The book itself has some useful test-taking techniques (like backsolving or plugging numbers) and the 100 most tested math topics is nice, but for the most part, there's nothing ground-breaking. The CD is where the value is. Overall, the tests are extremely difficult. The first CD test I took I scored a 570 - not nearly where I wanted to be (around 700). However, after reading other people's difficulties with the CD test on , I worried less. Still, it's great practice, especially for tough quant questions. The GMAT is a tough test, and the quant part is particularly tricky, especially with the tight time limit. Learning the pace of the test through Kaplan will safely get you through the GMAT. The verbal section is less useful - the reading comp passages are confusing and explanations of answers are useless. 2) PR - Again, book has some useful test techniques, but buy it for the CD. PR is the opposite of Kaplan - Quant is way too easy and not very useful, unless you are still getting up to speed on math basics. The verbal part is close to the actual GMAT and is very helpful. 3) OG - BUY IT! 1400 real GMAT questions! However, don't crack the book open until you exhaust the Powerprep software, since the software takes all of its questions from the book. You want to simulate the test as closely as possible, and the last thing you want to do is start with questions you already know the answer to.

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