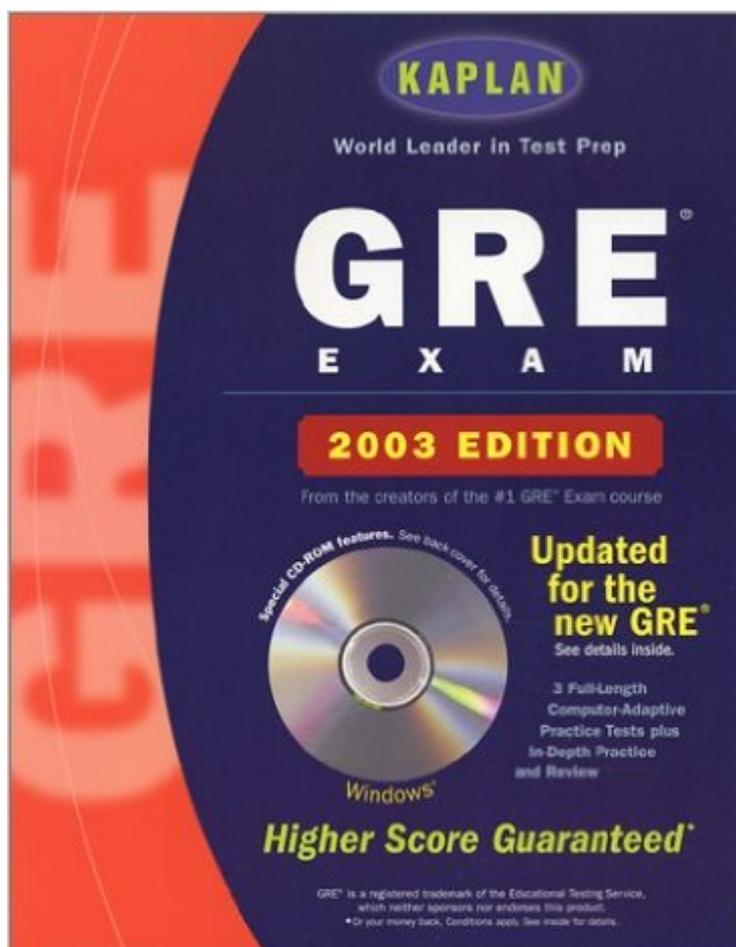


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Customer Reviews

I found the book itself to be very helpful when it came to the math section. Although I was a math major in college, I've been out of college for nearly 2 years and most of the math I did there had nothing to do with what was on the GRE. I was decent in math in high school, and I mostly felt that I needed a good review of the concepts involved, as well as tips and techniques to solve problems quickly, as my slow speed on standardized tests has always netted me a poor score. That said, I feel that the Kaplan GRE book provided superb math review. It gave a very good synopsis of the main types of tricks and pitfalls, and an excellent section on how to deal with Quantitative Comparison questions. There's also an appendix in the back that goes over the math concepts you'll need to solve virtually any kind of GRE problem out there (the only major concept that wasn't included in the appendix, which I saw on a problem on the ETS CD, was the use of Venn Diagrams). I also did some vocabulary review, learning the "top 200 GRE Words" and memorizing a few of the "word family" lists, but I don't recall seeing more than one or two of these words on the GRE (if even that). Still, it was kind of fun studying for it: learning the meaning of rare words that 99% of people don't know (like "prolix" or "vituperate") wasn't very useful, but learning the meaning of those words I heard frequently but didn't know the meaning of (like "prodigal") was very practical and even enjoyable. I also felt that the verbal "tips and techniques" section was filled mostly with tips that were either completely obvious, horribly vague, or fairly useless.

I have found this book and CD essential and very helpful in my preparation for the GRE. I read through the book and did the problems in a couple of days and this provided an essential framework for approaching each question type. The Verbal section has Antonym, Analogy, Sentence Completion and Reading Comprehension questions and it is really important to know how to approach each of these questions, what steps to follow in coming to the right answer. While vocabulary is very important for Antonyms and Analogies and simply require memorization, the technique of coming up with your own opposite and looking for a close word in the answer choices (Antonyms) and making a bridge and looking for that same relationship in the answer choices

(Analogies) are necessary to tools for handling these question types well. I found their method for Reading Comprehension and Sentence Completion similiary helpful. The Math section has Quantitative Comparison and Problem Solving questions. In the book, they go through a bunch of topics in Algebra and Geometry, such as the formulas for the areas of triangles and circles, circumference of a circle, etc... that I had forgotten but need to know for the test. So I found this section a useful and concise refresher course for the kinds of thing one needs to know for the Math section of the GRE. Now, after getting this framework for approaching each question type, the heart of any preparation program is applying these techniques on questions; in other words: practice, practice, practice. And that is what the CD is for. The CD has 6 practice sections for both Math and Verbal (Analytical, too, but that is not on the GRE anymore, as of October 1, 2002) and 3 full length practice GREs.

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