

# Five Things Every **GMAT** Test Taker Must Know

The GMAT is a standardized test that is used by many business schools as part of the application process. While the GMAT represents a portion of the overall application, many prospective applicants view the exam as a significant obstacle to their admission to the graduate program of their choice. WKU Test Prep is here to help prospective applicants prepare to perform at their best on the GMAT. We've put together this list of five facts that we feel are critical to understand if one wants to perform well on the exam.

## **Fact #1: *The GMAT is computer adaptive.***

The computer adaptive nature of the GMAT requires that you complete items in the order in which they are presented. Questions cannot be skipped and you cannot return to previous questions once you have submitted an answer. It is helpful to accept that the previously answered questions are in the past. Focus on those things still under your control. There are only two things that matter: answering the question you are currently working on and using time wisely in order to get to as many of the remaining questions as possible.

## **Fact #2: *You almost certainly will not get every question correct.***

Missing difficult/challenging items should be expected. However, careless mistakes must be avoided. Be methodical in completing each step when solving an item. If you know how to solve an item take extra time if you need to in order to solve it correctly, especially if it occurs early in the test section. If you don't know how to solve an item, guess quickly and move on.

## **Fact #3: *Basic math skills are required on the exam.***

The GMAT does not provide or allow for the use of a calculator on the Quantitative section. (A calculator is provided for the Integrated Reasoning section.) If you find yourself doing a long, elaborate calculation you are almost certainly doing the question inefficiently.

## **Fact #4: *You don't have to show your work on the GMAT.***

Getting the question right is the primary concern. Picking numbers, plugging in answer choices, process of elimination, and educated guessing are all fair game when solving questions.

## **Fact #5: *The most important step in solving an item is to understand the question being asked.***

Read the question carefully; this is not the place to rush or "save time".

Always remember, there are no tricks to the GMAT and the test isn't trying to fool you. With a thorough review of the math and verbal skills tested on the exam, and diligent preparation, you can improve your performance on the exam.

If you found this information helpful, we encourage you to sign up to participate in one of our upcoming Free Strategy Workshops or Test Preparation classes. For more information about all of the resources that we provide, please visit our website at [www.wku.edu/ll/test-prep](http://www.wku.edu/ll/test-prep). We look forward to continuing to assist you with your GMAT preparations. Please feel free to contact our team of GMAT experts at any time with any questions or to receive additional information about our GMAT preparation resources.



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