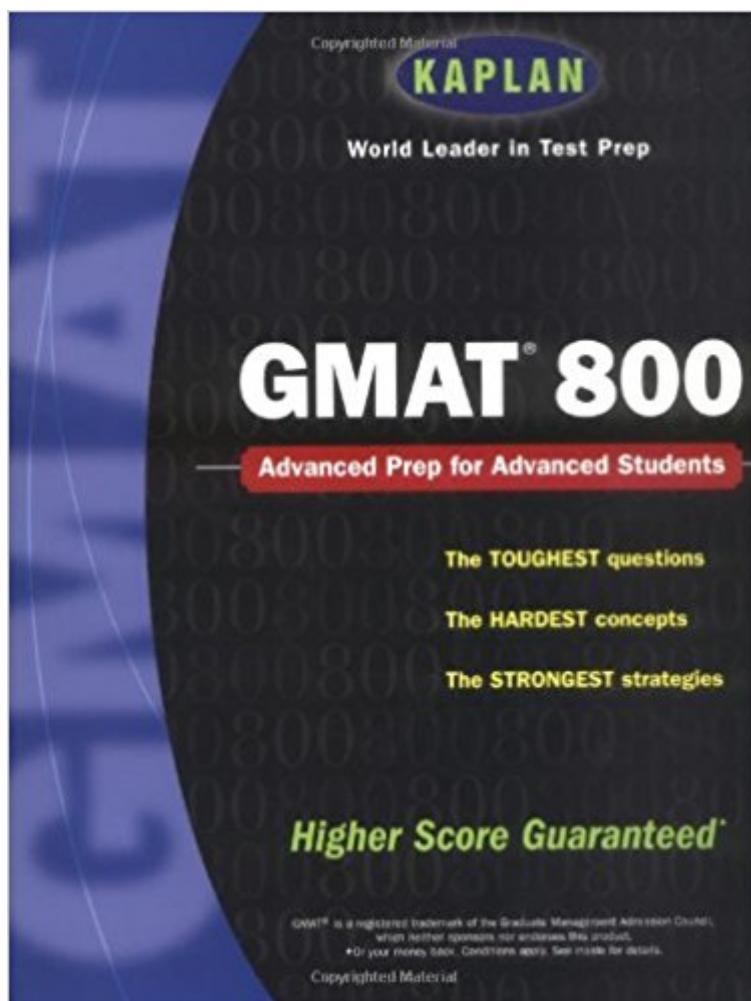


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# Kaplan GMAT 800 (Kaplan GMAT Advanced)



## **Synopsis**

Kaplan GMAT 800 is designed for students aiming to score in the top 10 percent on the difficult Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT). Each year, more than 200,000 prospective M.B.A. students take the GMAT in hopes of gaining admission to a top tier business school. Considering the odds and the intensity of competition, it's no surprise that the legions of business school hopefuls who take the GMAT each year approach their preparation for this challenging exam very seriously. Kaplan GMAT 800 is a targeted study guide for students who want to score in the 90th percentile on the GMAT and get accepted to a top business school. Featuring hundreds of the toughest practice questions with complete answer explanations and strategies for getting the right answers on test day, Kaplan GMAT 800 is an ideal supplement to Kaplan's basic GMAT guide and the perfect preparation for GMAT success.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Chapter One: The Critical Reasoning Challenge Do you like to point out the assumptions in others' arguments? Do you like to home in on logical flaws like a detective, and analyze precisely how arguments could be made better, or worse? Then GMAT Critical Reasoning is for you. So start dissecting op-ed pieces and cutting the contestants on television debates down to size. When you see your GMAT score, you'll be glad you did! Which of the following can be most properly inferred from the passage above? (A) Mastering the Critical Reasoning question type will ensure an

excellent GMAT score. (B) No question type contained on the GMAT is represented in more sections of the GMAT than is Critical Reasoning. (C) Op-ed pieces and television debates contain content that is related in some way to material tested in GMAT Critical Reasoning. (D) Logical flaws and assumptions are question types that appear only on the GMAT. (E) Thinking like a detective has no impact on one's GMAT score. Explanation: Choice (C) is correct. The final two sentences strongly imply that dissecting op-eds and debates will lead to a higher score, which, in fact, it certainly can. There must therefore be some relation between GMAT content and the content of these forums. As for the others: Mastering Critical Reasoning is necessary to achieve a top GMAT score, but is not sufficient; one must ace the other content areas of the test as well. So (A) is not inferable. There's no basis for (B) either -- the number of sections on the test is outside the scope of the argument. (D) isn't inferable. For all we know, other tests such as the LSAT test these same areas. And (E) represents the opposite of what the passage suggests: The instructor strongly implies that the proclivity for playing detective is relevant to (hence, inferably bodes well for) one's Critical Reasoning performance. So win arguments! Prove people wrong! Amaze your friends! Be the life of the party! Get an 800 on the GMAT!...Just a few of the many and varied uses of the ability to master the subtle art of Critical Reasoning. Disclaimer: Hacking through the bogus arguments of others and/or demonstrating superior logical acumen in everyday conversation will NOT make you the most popular person in town. However, the ability to do so will do wonders for your GMAT score. The purpose of this chapter is to help you hone your critical thinking skills through practice on some of the toughest Critical Reasoning material around. Using the Critical Reasoning Questions in this Book This section is broken up into chapters that detail various difficulties commonly encountered in GMAT Critical Reasoning. It is designed to allow you to learn as you go and to apply your learning to subsequent questions as you progress through the section. In chapter 2 you'll be introduced to seven major categories of difficult Critical Reasoning questions, each highlighted by an example. In chapter 3 you'll find seven more questions that test whether or not you can recognize the distinctions and logical elements introduced in the first group. Finally, chapter 4 offers 28 additional questions representative of all the elements and forms discussed in the previous chapters. Strategies for Critical Reasoning Here are a few general pointers to keep in mind when tackling all Critical Reasoning questions, but especially the challenging questions like the ones you're about to see: Keep your eye out for the author's evidence, conclusion, and any assumptions relied upon in the argument. The wordiness and logical subtlety of the questions that follow often cause test-takers to lose sight of what's actually being said, and it's nearly impossible to answer questions like these correctly when one is foggy about the specifics. The conclusion is the "what" of

the matter; the evidence is the reasons "why" the author feels entitled to make that particular claim; and assumptions are any missing premises that are nonetheless needed in order for the conclusion to stand. Paraphrase the text. You can get a leg up on tough text by simplifying the passage's ideas and translating them into your own words. The same goes for the longer Reading Comprehension passages. Familiarize yourself with the common Critical Reasoning concepts tested. Review the logical elements and structures discussed throughout the section, and look to recognize which of them are present in each Critical Reasoning question you encounter in this book as well as in any other questions you practice with during your GMAT preparation. While the specific subjects you'll encounter (names, places, scenarios, etc.) will naturally be different from those you'll see on your test, the underlying logical patterns remain incredibly consistent. Use the questions and explanations that follow to get to know them. Copyright © 2002 by Kaplan, Inc.

I am not blasting this book - I am giving you a rating based on the expectation that the description of this book sets. It does not live up and you are bound to be disappointed. However, it is actually a valuable book but you need to be aware of what you are buying and probably how to use it best when you buy it:  
As a pure guidebook - 1 star  
As a question collection - 4 stars  
**What You Will Find Inside:**  
28 Critical reasoning questions  
31 Reading comprehension questions  
110 Sentence correction questions  
107 Problem solving questions (only 7 of which cover combinations and probability)  
37 Data Sufficiency questions  
100 + questions in the online question bank\*\*\*\*\*  
**CONS** \*\*\*\*\*  
No review of math principles or grammar rules. This book assumes that you have gone through the Kaplan's main GMAT book. If you need help with basics look into getting the Math or Verbal Workbooks before getting this one.\* Illogical structure. Instead of the typical approach of providing a rule and then questions to practice that rule on, this book just lists questions in each of the sections. All of the valuable information and tips are scattered around the explanations section. The book assumes you will read/review explanations for every question. In defense, the main point is often emphasized, so they are not too hard to find.\* Question difficulty. Fewer than 50 people per year score 800 on the GMAT, and most of the lucky guys get past 700. To appeal to a broad audience, Kaplan designed this book at a 650/700-level\* Math section is fairly easy and lacks meaningful practice in advanced subjects such as probability, combinations, or coordinate geometry, statistics. If these are your weak areas, you should look elsewhere\* No Integrated Reasoning\*\*\*\*\*  
**PROS** \*\*\*\*\*  
The book does what it was supposed to do - provide advanced selection of questions, giving the necessary practice with relevant questions. Though Kaplan's questions are not one-for-one official GMAT questions, I found them fairly close overall. I also liked the explanations - they were very detailed\* Good verbal section

with valuable RC practice; huge selection of SC's\* Good quality publishing and paper; good layout\* Price - I thought it was worth every penny :)Bottom Line: This is not a guidebook or a book to start with - if you need to get better in a certain question type, then get it but don't expect it to be sufficient to give you the background often needed to score 700+. [+++] Here is the list of the hardest questions in the book (if this is all you are looking for). CR tough questions: Chapter 2: Prob # 3, 7 Chapter 3: #9, 10, 11 Chapter 4: #1, 2, 4, 7, 9, 10, 13, 16, 20, 21, 27 RC tough questions: Chapter 5: Has no questions Chapter 6: Passage 1: #1, #4, Passage 2: #1, #3, Passage 3: #4, Passage 4: #3 Chapter 7: Passage 1: #2, Passage 2: None, Passage 3: #3, #4, Passage 4: #1, #2 Sentence Correction Chapter 8: no questions Chapter 9: Ques #: 8, 10, 13, 15, 16, 19, 20, 25, 27, 29, 32, 35, 36, 37 Chapter 10: Ques #: 44, 45, 46, 49, 57, 58, 59, 60, 62, 63, 64, 66, 67, 68, 72 Chapter 11: Ques #: 2, 6, 11, 14, 16, 23, 25, 27, 29, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39 QUANT/MATH Chapter 12: no questions Chapter 13: #14 Chapter 14: #3 Chapter 15: #13 Chapter 16: no questions Chapter 17: #3, 16, 17, 27, 28, 29, 36 Chapter 18: #9 Chapter 19: #1, 3, 7 Chapter 20: No questions Chapter 21: #7 Chapter 22: #4, 8, 16, 17, 18 FYI: This book is the re-branded edition of a book previously called Kaplan GMAT Advanced. The two books are identical in terms of content (very minor changes); for exact changes see: CHANGES IN THIS EDITION: \* No changes have been spotted in the book from the 8th edition\* Online question bank access was added with 100 or so questions

It is fine, nothing amazing, but I found for a guidebook that is supposed to showcase the most difficult questions you will encounter that the questions are actually quite easy. The GMAC Official Guide provided more explanation/review, as well as more difficult questions. Most troubling, however, is that the guidebook is riddled with errors. One problem-solving question, for example, shows you two ways to solve a problem and gives two different answers as the correct choice. Other answer explanations seem to ignore the basic set-up of the problem (ie, saying x and y must be equal and then suggesting that you make x=2 and y=3 to solve). I have found at least one mistake in every section so far, which I find unacceptable. It covers a lot of ground and I appreciate that it highlights common categories and mistakes, but it's hard to trust the explanations and the format of 2-4 questions followed by explanation and answers followed by more questions makes it hard to get into the test-taking mode of needing to answer many questions in a row.

The math section of this book is really quite good. I think I improved as a result of using this book. In particular, the math questions near the end are much harder than those up front. In my opinion the

questions aren't 800 level questions but more of challenging ones that are good to learn from. The verbal section is quite good as well. The best part of this book is that the explanations are right after each question so don't have to flip thirty something pages to see the solution and explanation unlike in other books.

I have been been really busy with work and neither did I have too much time to study for GMATs, nor an extra grand to spend on a prep course. I needed above a 700 and I know from SAT practice that the prep courses are geared for students aiming for the mid 600s as the goal. At least for me, I used the Princeton Review Cracking the GMAT (2006 edition) as a starter to familiarize myself with the test. I think the 10th edition official guide by GMAC is a great transition. Honestly, though, the CD was much more useful since it familiarized me with the actual computer format of the exam (although the CAT part of it is questionable - and be careful about doing too many practice questions from the book or the CD since you might see some recycle on your 2 practice exams). However, the best preparation is the GMAT 800 from Kaplan - it's not too great on the strategies, but if you learn by example like me, it's perfect since the examples are challenging and written for somebody aiming for above 93 percentile. I can't speak too much on the quant section, but the verbal section is awesome. It has a great section on sentence correction which I found to be incredibly useful in improving my score. I really feel that by going through all the verbal questions, I learned the fundamental grammar that GMAT requires for a good score. I was scoring on the practice in the mid 600s, and taking two days off work to completely go through the verbal section of this book was the key to getting me a 750 on the exam. Good luck with your exam and MBA application.

People studying for the GMAT need to know that they can't do it without buying the GMAC official guide. Just don't do it. The Kaplan questions are good but they're not the same as the official guide. The official guide is the prime source of good questions and practice. **HOWEVER**, the role of Kaplan books like this is to harvest the strategies from them and use them on the practice question from the official guide. Also, if you are breaking down a math skill, some of the simpler questions may be helpful. I honestly haven't used this book much since I have a Kaplan premier book, but I don't think there's tons of new stuff. Heck, I haven't really looked at it so I don't know. Read the other reviews. But my previous point stands.

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