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CliffsNotes Math Review For Standardized Tests, 2nd Edition (CliffsTestPrep)





Synopsis

Your guide to a higher math score on standardized

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Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am returning to grad school next year after a long hiatus from any kind of formal education (I received my undergraduate degree in 1991) so although I generally have been pretty successful with standardized tests, I was a little nervous about the GRE, in particular about the quantitative analysis portion. I haven't had a math class in over 25 years, since I majored in literature and communications as an undergrad, and was in an honors curriculum which allowed me write papers about math instead of taking a "real" math class. I took the revised GRE a few weeks ago, so I haven't received my official scores yet, but the range estimates I was given after completing the test

were numbers I was happy with (750-800 verbal, 710-800 quantitative). I won't have the official scores until November. These numbers were fairly close to the practice score numbers I got taking the official ETS sample test, and a bit higher than the practice scores I got taking the practice tests.EDITED TO ADD that my final scores on the new scale were 168/170 verbal, 157/170 quantitative, and 5.5/6 on the analytical writing. As I said above, I am not, nor have I ever been, very good at math, so although the quantitative score is only what I'd consider on the high end of average (77th percentile), for me, this score was far beyond my original expectations, so the studying I did paid off enormously. This Cliffs Notes book is the one I credit the most for my improvement on the quantitative questions.Here is how I studied:1. I downloaded and took the free ETS test as a baseline. I also downloaded and studied their free math review materials.2. Based on step one, I reviewed my options here on for supplemental study materials, and decided I wanted about two months to study.

I've owned two copies of this book - sold the first one after using it to successfully prepare for the GRE. Bought another copy for an immediate relative to study for a community college entrance exam. It has also been used by a relative to prepare for a teacher licensing exam. All results = well above average, despite years of NO MATH (who ever uses geometry, trig or binomial factoring in real life, except math teachers?) in all cases. This book is about getting the job done as guickly and efficiently as possible. If you are aiming to get up to the top 97% level on any standardized test, it is sufficient by itself. All areas start with a very basic explanation, assuming you know NOTHING... perfect for those who are rusty at math or never learned the principles correctly to begin with. There are also a few test-specific sections at the end for the GMAT, etc. Keep it simple with your test prep mastering the basics will allow you to score well ahead of the average "normalized" person on a standardized exam.Set a strict but REASONABLE study schedule for yourself - one chapter 3 x per week, for example - and work through the book. Review 1 x per week to make sure you remember what you applied. Take all the practice tests in the book. Then, a week or two before your test, do 3 full mock tests using your actual exam's past questions. This will do the trick (I know, b/c I also qualified to work as a test prep instructor for a major brand based on my high scores). To complete refresh and master the basics, I would suggest planning 30 hours of studying, practice exams, review, etc. with this book. If you've never learned the concepts therein (algebra, geometry, fractions) it may take longer.

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