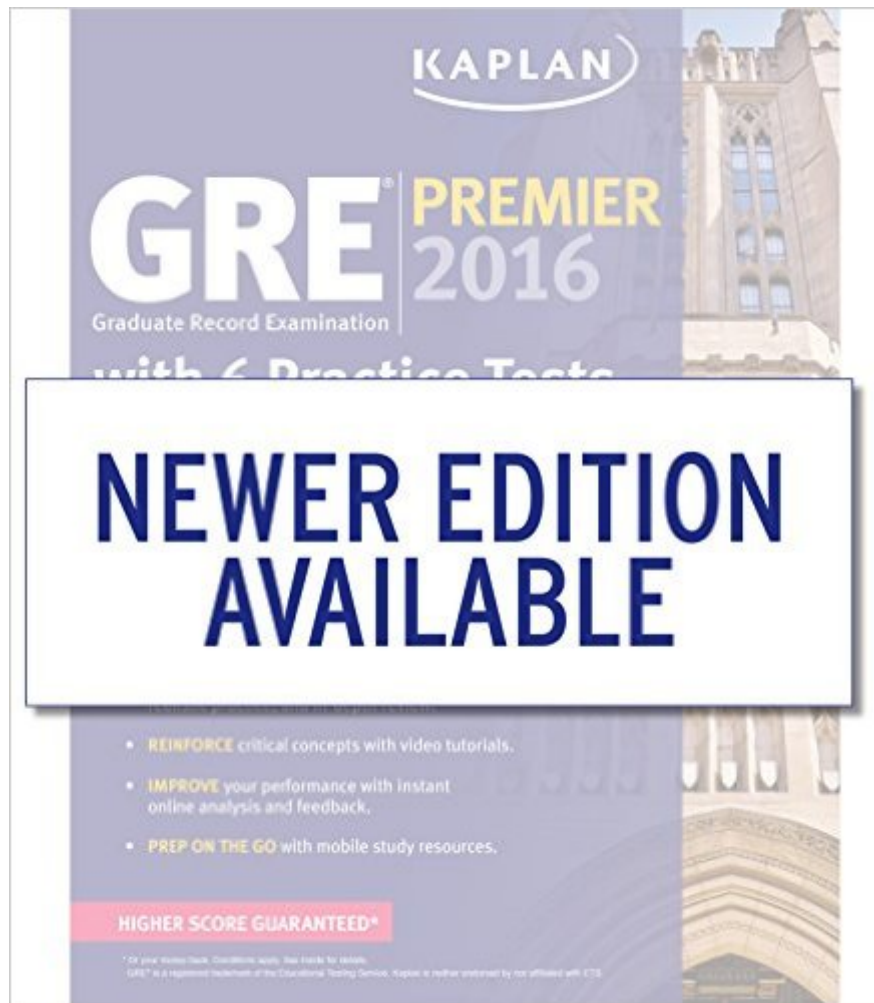


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Synopsis

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Customer Reviews

I'm a long-time GRE tutor, and I review GRE books to help self-studiers with their prep. Kaplan's latest version of their GRE prep guide, like its previous versions, is a basic primer for the test, but not what I'd recommend. I think it is inferior to its competition in several important ways. 1. First, this book is a one-size-fits-all book. But kind of like a one-size-fits all hat, it's not going to work as well for people who are below or above average. If you're starting from a high or low point, this may not work well for you: high scorers need more depth; lower scorers need more technique options. 2. Practice question realism is poor, especially for verbal questions. It's so important to practice with questions that capture the nuances and complexities of the real GRE. Kaplan, like most companies, doesn't duplicate these nuances well. In general, these questions are simpler and easier than real questions. So even if this book included access to a million Kaplan computer tests, I would avoid it. 3. The book does not adequately cover all the concepts the GRE will present. I am surprised to see there is still no treatment of logic or "critical reasoning" verbal questions, and that not all math concepts are covered. Again, bad for you if you want a competitive score. 4. The level of depth for math concepts will, in my opinion, not get people to competency in many cases, let alone mastery. 5. The techniques offered for math are fine, but verbal techniques are fairly fluffy - they may work on

Kaplan-written questions, but I don't think for many they'll work well on more difficult ETS GRE questions. The thing that gets me worked up about this book is not that it's mediocre. It's that it's marketed as the best, most comprehensive GRE prep option. I guess it sells more books to say your book is an easy one-stop solution than to tell people that you may need multiple books and that hard work is required. Also, Kaplan books have a funny way of garnering tons of 5-star "reviews", and as a result, millions of people buy them. Whatever prep materials you choose, I suggest researching them in detail.

I have GRE score of 323 and I am one of the founding members of the GRE Prep Club online community. Here is what I think about this book:~~~ PROS~~~1. Great Value for Money: The combined package, i.e. the book + CD + Online Materials, form a very exhaustive library of GRE Questions created and Compiled by Kaplan.2. Its greatest merit lies in its Chapters on AWA Sections. The topics and responses are discussed in great detail. There is an immaculate Foundation and Content review chapter under the AWA section as well, which is probably the best feature of this product. It also discusses the pacing strategy (writing the essay within 30 min) and nuances of Scoring.3. The Foundation and Content Review Chapters under both, Quant and Verbal sections are very detailed and beginner friendly. The theoretical coverage on the topics is fairly detailed.4. The answers to the practice questions, in the book, are very detailed and insightful.5. Practice test are of paramount importance for test prep. The six tests equip the user to perform SWOT analysis and monitor progress from time to time. The test analysis report is a lifesaver!~~~ CONS ~~~1. Difficulty level of questions, specifically in the Quantitative section, could have been better. The practice test set questions are not at par with the Questions by ETS.2. The section named: Kaplan Method of Problem solving has a much better alternative that can be found in the book by ETS. Since ETS books contain actual GRE questions hence it is much more effective to emulate problem solving strategies presented in the Book by ETS.3. The questions on the Tests by Kaplan seem to lack the quality that we have come to Expect from ETS and Manhattan.Overall it is a well-balanced book and good value for money. However, it is not sufficient by itself, if the user wants to score more than 315 points. If you are looking to score higher on the GRE you must consider other books. It is highly advisable that you look into ETS GRE as they have actual GRE Questions.~~~ Some other Frequently asked Questions:~ What are some of the other study options that I have?Some students, in the past, have bypassed Kaplan completely and started more specialized books such as the ETS or Manhattan GRE. For example, Manhattan GRE Set of eight strategy guides come with 8 books that target specific math and verbal areas. You would have

a much better shot at scoring 315+ using this (not guaranteed), however they require 2-3 months to complete. ETS has a similar collection of 3 books (general + quantitative + verbal). They also have four tests on CD rom enclosed along with the package.~ What is a good study plan using Kaplan Premier? Since it is a good book for beginner~s, I would recommend that you could start with Kaplan and finish it within a month, then evaluate which are your areas of strength/ weakness. Based on your analysis you can invest in a book by Manhattan/ ETS to bolster your weaknesses.~ Will this get me to 315+? This book alone, probably, won't get you to 315+ score but for people out of college it would refresh the math and verbal fundamentals. You should seriously consider investing in ETS as they provide you with questions that have appeared in GRE before.~ How do I get to 315+ with this book? You can review your concepts using this book and take a Mock test to perform SWAT analysis.~ Based on your SWAT you can invest in a book that targets your weakness. (see the other books I should know about Section below)~ Retake a Mock test and see the changes in your results.~ If you have a bit more time you can consider investing it in a Book series like the ETS or Manhattan. This will, most likely, take your score to a higher level but it would also cost more in terms of time and money. Other Books I should know about? Make sure you have the Official Guides (at least one of them). The Manhattan GRE series are pretty good as well but require a lot more time to go through them. Best of luck with your test prep. Sandy, GRE: 323, GREPrepClubPS: I reply to comments on .

I have gotten the last 3 versions of the KAPLAN book from a friend to take the exam. In the combined 10 quantitative exams that I had in these books I was getting 18 or 19 out of 20 on every exam. I entered the GRE thinking I was golden & boy was I wrong. The easiest question on the actual math GRE is harder than the hardest question in any of those GRE books. The Kaplan book sounds great but if you use this you will not be leaving the exam so happy because you spent a month taking multiple exams where you are at worst getting 3 wrong out of 20 questions, you get to the exam and it seems like gibberish compared to what KAPLAN had you studying.

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