Quantitative Reasoning

2 sections: 35 min & 20 questions each

Types of questions:

- **Quantitative Comparison**
  - Choices are always:
    - A) Quantity A is greater
    - B) Quantity B is greater
    - C) The two quantities are equal
    - D) The relationship cannot be determined from the information given
  - If the quantities only involve numbers eliminate choice D “The relationship cannot be determined from the information given”
    - Plugging in method: Always pick 2 easy and opposite numbers such as 2 & -2 or 2 and ½ (± or whole # and fraction). (Avoid 0 and 1 bc they have special properties)
    - Always try to make the quantities look the same. Always do the same thing to both sides!
    - Never assume, rely only on what you know, figures aren’t always drawn to scale
    - Don’t forget other possibilities ( $\sqrt{4} = \pm 2$ )
    - Don’t fall for look alikes!

- **Problem Solving**
  - Some questions will have one or multiple answers
    1. RTFQ x2: read the question carefully! Before you look at answer choices figure out what are you trying to find and what kind of answer do you expect (estimate).
    2. Pick a method
      - Straight forward math (not the quickest, there is usually an easier trick)
      - Pick numbers and plug in (difficult looking problems)
      - Back Solve *notice the choices are in numerical order*
        - Start with choice B or D
        - If B is too large it is A, if B is too small check D
        - If D is too large it is C.
      - Strategic Guessing, process of elimination
    3. Check that your answer makes sense with your estimate and answers the correct question.

- **Data Interpretation**
  - Some questions will have one or multiple answers
  - Take your time to look at the title, scale, notes, and key on figures
  - Don’t be afraid to touch the computer screen, put your finger on the values you need

**Concepts Covered:**

- Percentages: helps to memorize the decimal # and fraction equivalents of common %s

These strategies and tips are taken directly from Kaplan’s *GRE Premier 2015, 2014 Edition.*
• Simultaneous equations: Use combination method first, then substitution if that won’t work
• Symbolism: Don’t freak out, they’re easy substitution!
• Special triangles: Memorize!
• Multiple and oddball figures: know your area formulas
• Mean, median, mode and range=average, middle, most, big-small
• Probability: # desired outcomes/# possible outcomes

General strategies:

• Always guess
• Skip often
• Always use scratch paper
• Questions are not intended to do lots of complex math, look for the shortcuts
• Don’t rely on a calculator in practice. You will only have access to a basic on screen one
• Process of elimination!
• Always factor or unfactor
• Don’t get caught watching the time! Hide it if you find yourself stressing over the time

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