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# GMAT Official Guide 2018 Bundle: Books + Online



## Synopsis

Get access to over 1500 questions for the GMAT exam in one package. The GMAT Official Guide 2018 Bundle features actual questions from past GMAT exams - including 220 never-before-seen questions- and consists of The GMAT Official Guide 2018, The GMAT Official Guide 2018 Verbal Review, and The GMAT Official Guide 2018 Quantitative Review. All three guides also come with exclusive access to [gmat.wiley.com](http://gmat.wiley.com), where you can build your own practice sets using the questions in the guides and access an additional 58 integrated reasoning questions. Don't waste time on fake GMAT questions. Optimize your study time practicing on real GMAT questions from the GMAT Official Guide 2018 Bundle.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Includes 130 never-before-seen questions Over 900 questions from past exams with answer explanations Create your own practice sets online at [gmat.wiley.com](http://gmat.wiley.com) Includes a diagnostic test, study tips, and test-taking strategies THE OFFICIAL GUIDE FOR GMAT REVIEW 2017 The premier source of practice questions, The Official Guide for GMAT Review 2017 helps you identify areas of strength and customize your study plan. Here's what you'll find inside: 900+ questions including 61 new verbal, 61 new quantitative, and 8 new online integrated reasoning questions with answer explanations Access to a customizable question bank at [gmat.wiley.com](http://gmat.wiley.com) A diagnostic test to help you get the most out of your study time Comprehensive grammar and math review Actual essay topics, sample responses, and scoring information Questions organized in order of difficulty

to focus your study Visit [mba.com](http://mba.com), the official website of the GMAT, your one-stop site for preparing for the GMAT exam and applying to business school.

The Graduate Management Admissions Council (GMAC) is the association of leading graduate business schools around the world. GMAC's mission is to meet the needs of business schools and students through a wide array of products, services, and programs, and the organization serves as a primary resource of research and information about quality graduate management education. GMAC is the owner and administrator of the Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT). Created in 1954, the GMAT is the first and only standardized test specifically designed for graduate business and management programs. Available in over 100 countries, it is the global standard for entry to the MBA degree course. Currently about 2,100 schools and 5,900 programs have adopted the GMAT, and the test is taken approximately 230,000 times annually.

It's not the official guide for nothing. Bang for the buck package. Total number of questions are more than enough for a 3 month study plan. One pet-peeve though, I wish they could tell me where the questions are for each sub-topic and probably organize it by difficulty. Overall, any GMAT test taker should definitely have this bundle. P.S. I'm just half-way through the OG (pink)

Hubby is studying GMAT and he so far said this is a well prepared review for his study.

the quality and package is really good and arrived on time.

Some parts of the book are confusing, but overall the practice questions are tricky but the explanations are great!

Must have!

Perfect for practising real GMAT questions.

it is great

Founded by a Stanford MBA, GMAT Genius offers the highest quality GMAT preparation services to GMAT aspirants worldwide. Our mission is crystal-clear: to help you achieve GMAT success. We

provide extensive free GMAT prep advice on the GMAT Genius website: read all about the GMAT, gain crucial strategy tips, learn how to best approach each question type, obtain optimal test preparation methods, discover effective GMAT study habits, and much more. In addition, we offer personalized GMAT tutoring to students worldwide. Please let us know if we can provide any assistance with your GMAT prep.

GMAT Genius has thoroughly analyzed the 2018 Official Guides and we want to share our insights with you. Feel free to read our detailed analysis of the 2018 GMAT Official Guide Bundle or skip down to our conclusions. Please note that you can view this same review with the data in nicely formatted tables on the GMAT Genius blog. Wishing you tremendous success with the GMAT!

### OVERVIEW

The Official Guides for GMAT Review contain retired real GMAT questions, and are an essential component of your GMAT preparations. The GMAC places questions in order of increasing difficulty, based on its assessment of difficulty. The three books in this bundle have no overlap in practice questions. Since we have published a detailed review for each of the three Official Guide books included in this bundle, our objective below is to provide a combined analysis of each question type (e.g. combine data for all Problem Solving questions across all books). You will find a list of new questions and detailed question categorization in our reviews of the individual books:

- GMAT Official Guide 2018: Book + Online (Official Guide for Gmat Review)
- GMAT Official Guide 2018 Quantitative Review: Book + Online (Official Guide for Gmat Quantitative Review)
- GMAT Official Guide 2018 Verbal Review: Book + Online (Official Guide for Gmat Verbal Review)

The 2018 edition contains 220 new questions out of the 1,566 total questions (including Integrated Reasoning). Excluding the 100 questions in the Diagnostic Exam section of the main book, the new questions represent 15% new content. These are new questions that we have not encountered before; they are not questions recycled from older GMAC resources.

### PROBLEM SOLVING

The Official Guide Bundle contains a total of 430 Problem Solving questions. The GMAC classifies question difficulty into three categories as follows:

| Difficulty | Count | Percentage | Change from 2017 |
|------------|-------|------------|------------------|
| Easy       | 185   | 43%        | 18 more          |
| Medium     | 102   | 24%        | 5 fewer          |
| Hard       | 143   | 33%        | 13 fewer         |

There are 61 new Problem Solving questions, with difficulty of Easy / Medium / Hard as follows: 37 / 12 / 12. This is in lieu of 61 questions from the 2017 edition that have been removed, with difficulty of Easy / Medium / Hard as follows: 19 / 17 / 25.

GMAT Genius classifies question difficulty into five categories. Our assessment of Problem Solving skews noticeably less difficult / more towards the center and is only 72.1% correlated with the GMAC's assessment, demonstrating tremendous subjectivity involved in assessing question difficulty. Here's our breakdown:

| Difficulty | Count | Percentage | Change from 2017 |
|------------|-------|------------|------------------|
| Super Easy | 44    | 10%        | 2 more           |
| Easy       | 125   | 29%        | 2 more           |
| Medium     |       |            |                  |

Easy  $\hat{=}$  166 (39%, 6 fewer) Hard  $\hat{=}$  68 (16%, 1 fewer) Very Hard  $\hat{=}$  27 (6%, 3 more) Although many math questions entail multiple math concepts, GMAT Genius classifies questions based on our assessment of the primary math concept. We break down the 430 Problem Solving questions as follows: Arithmetic - Basic: 26 (6%, 5 more than 2017) Arithmetic - Absolute Value: 7 (1.6%, same) Arithmetic - Divisibility/Factors/Multiples: 24 (5.6%, 1 fewer) Arithmetic - Exponents & Roots: 26 (6%, 5 fewer) Arithmetic - Fractions & Ratios: 50 (11.6%, 1 fewer) Arithmetic - Percents: 32 (7.4%, 3 fewer) Arithmetic - Pos/Neg & Odd/Even: 2 (0.5%, 2 fewer) Arithmetic - Primes: 4 (0.9%, same) Algebra - Inequalities: 9 (2.1%, 1 more) Algebra - Linear Equations: 23 (5.3%, 1 more) Algebra - Quadratics: 18 (4.2%, 2 more) Algebra - Simultaneous Equations: 13 (3%, same) Algebra - Variables in Answers: 13 (3%, 2 more) Geometry - Circles: 8 (1.9%, 1 fewer) Geometry - Coordinate: 12 (2.8%, 1 fewer) Geometry - Rectangles: 12 (2.8%, same) Geometry - Triangles: 12 (2.8%, 2 more) Geometry - Other: 11 (2.6%, same) Statistics - Averages: 32 (7.4%, same) Statistics - Other: 10 (2.3%, 1 more) Word Problems - Combinatorics: 11 (2.6%, same) Word Problems - Functions & Sequences: 22 (5.1%, 1 fewer) Word Problems - Groups/Sets: 10 (2.3%, 1 more) Word Problems - Probability: 9 (2.1%, 1 fewer) Word Problems - Revenue/Profit/Interest: 14 (3.3%, 2 more) Word Problems - Rate & Work: 20 (4.7%, 1 fewer) DATA

**SUFFICIENCY** The Official Guide Bundle contains a total of 322 Data Sufficiency questions. The GMAC classifies question difficulty into three categories as follows: Easy  $\hat{=}$  85 (26%, 9 more than 2017) Medium  $\hat{=}$  90 (28%, 8 more) Hard  $\hat{=}$  147 (46%, 17 fewer) There are 45 new Data Sufficiency questions, with difficulty of Easy / Medium / Hard as follows: 13 / 16 / 16. This is in lieu of 45 questions from the 2017 edition that have been removed, with difficulty of Easy / Medium / Hard as follows: 4 / 8 / 33. GMAT Genius classifies question difficulty into five categories. Our assessment of Data Sufficiency skews significantly easier and is only 61.0% correlated with the GMAC's assessment.

Here's our breakdown: Super Easy  $\hat{=}$  21 (7%, 3 more than 2017) Easy  $\hat{=}$  83 (26%, 5 more) Medium  $\hat{=}$  144 (45%, 2 fewer) Hard  $\hat{=}$  62 (19%, 4 fewer) Very Hard  $\hat{=}$  12 (4%, 2 fewer) Although many math questions entail multiple math concepts, GMAT Genius classifies questions based on our assessment of the primary math concept. We break down the 322 Data Sufficiency questions as follows: Arithmetic - Basic: 20 (6.2%, 5 more than 2017) Arithmetic - Absolute Value: 1 (0.3%, same) Arithmetic - Divisibility/Factors/Multiples: 17 (5.3%, 3 more) Arithmetic - Exponents & Roots: 26 (8.1%, 1 fewer) Arithmetic - Fractions & Ratios: 19 (5.9%, 2 fewer) Arithmetic - Percents: 21 (6.5%, 1 fewer) Arithmetic - Pos/Neg & Odd/Even: 13 (4%, 1 fewer) Arithmetic - Primes: 4 (1.2%, 1

more)Algebra - Inequalities: 26 (8.1%, 6 more)Algebra - Linear Equations: 14 (4.3%, 1  
more)Algebra - Quadratics: 10 (3.1%, 1 more)Algebra - Simultaneous Equations: 18 (5.6%, 6  
fewer)Geometry - Circles: 11 (3.4%, 1 more)Geometry - Coordinate: 11 (3.4%, same)Geometry -  
Rectangles: 7 (2.2%, same)Geometry - Triangles: 13 (4%, same)Geometry - Other: 7 (2.2%, 1  
fewer)Statistics - Averages: 20 (6.2%, same)Statistics - Other: 15 (4.7%, 1 fewer)Word Problems -  
Functions & Sequences: 11 (3.4%, 1 fewer)Word Problems - Groups/Sets: 15 (4.7%, 1 more)Word  
Problems - Probability: 4 (1.2%, 1 fewer)Word Problems - Revenue/Profit/Interest: 8 (2.5%, 2  
fewer)Word Problems - Rate & Work: 11 (3.4%, 2 fewer)

**SENTENCE CORRECTION**The Official Guide Bundle contains a total of 271 Sentence Correction questions. The GMAC classifies question difficulty into three categories as follows:

| Category | Count | Percentage | Change from 2017 |
|----------|-------|------------|------------------|
| Easy     | 71    | 26%        | 5 more than 2017 |
| Medium   | 75    | 28%        | 26 fewer         |
| Hard     | 125   | 46%        | 21 more          |

There are 38 new Sentence Correction questions, with difficulty of Easy / Medium / Hard as follows: 12 / 4 / 22. This is in lieu of 38 questions from the 2017 edition that have been removed, with difficulty of Easy / Medium / Hard as follows: 7 / 13 / 18. The GMAC has assigned a different difficulty rating to a total of 17 Sentence Correction questions, upgrading these 17 from Medium to Hard difficulty.

**GMAT Genius** classifies question difficulty into five categories. Our assessment skews noticeably easier and is only 59.9% correlated with the GMAC's assessment, clearly demonstrating the subjectivity involved in assessing question difficulty. Here's our breakdown:

| Category   | Count | Percentage | Change from 2017  |
|------------|-------|------------|-------------------|
| Super Easy | 7     | 3%         | 1 fewer than 2017 |
| Easy       | 77    | 28%        | 3 more            |
| Medium     | 110   | 41%        | 3 fewer           |
| Hard       | 65    | 24%        | 3 more            |
| Very Hard  | 12    | 4%         | 2 fewer           |

Although Sentence Correction questions typically entail multiple grammar concepts (as described on our website), **GMAT Genius** classifies questions based on our assessment of the primary tested concept. We classify the 271 Sentence Correction questions as follows:

| Category              | Count | Percentage | Change from 2017 |
|-----------------------|-------|------------|------------------|
| Verb Agreement        | 26    | 10%        | 1 more than 2017 |
| Verb Tense            | 35    | 13%        | 1 fewer          |
| Pronoun Ambiguity     | 21    | 8%         | 2 more           |
| Pronoun Agreement     | 15    | 6%         | same             |
| Parallel Construction | 78    | 29%        | 6 fewer          |
| Misplaced Modifiers   | 33    | 12%        | 1 more           |
| Idioms                | 19    | 7%         | 2 more           |
| Comparison & Quantity | 18    | 7%         | 1 fewer          |
| Expression & Meaning  | 26    | 10%        | 2 more           |

**CRITICAL REASONING**The Official Guide Bundle contains a total of 224 Critical Reasoning questions. The GMAC classifies question difficulty into three categories as follows:

| Category | Count | Percentage | Change from 2017  |
|----------|-------|------------|-------------------|
| Easy     | 72    | 32%        | 3 fewer than 2017 |
| Medium   | 71    | 32%        | same              |
| Hard     | 81    | 36%        | 3 more            |

There are 31 new Critical Reasoning questions, with difficulty of Easy / Medium / Hard as follows: 7 / 7 / 17. This is in lieu of 31 questions from the 2017 edition that have been removed, with difficulty of Easy / Medium / Hard as follows: 10 / 8 / 13. The GMAC has

assigned a different difficulty rating to one Critical Reasoning question. GMAT Genius classifies question difficulty into five categories. Our assessment skews slightly more towards the center, yet is only 72.3% correlated with the GMAC's assessment, clearly indicating subjectivity involved in assessing question difficulty. Here's our breakdown: Super Easy 1 (0%, same as 2017) Easy 61 (27%, 8 fewer) Medium 89 (40%, 1 more) Hard 52 (23%, 5 more) Very Hard 21 (9%, 2 more) We have grouped the questions based on the question type categorization that GMAT Genius uses for Critical Reasoning (as described on our website). We break down the 224 Critical Reasoning questions as follows: Weaken: 49 (22%, 3 more than 2017) Strengthen: 43 (19%, 3 fewer) Assumption: 22 (10%, 2 more) Reasoning: 7 (3%, 1 fewer) Conclusion: 16 (7%, same) Explain: 23 (10%, 1 fewer) Evaluate: 22 (10%, same) Boldface: 13 (6%, same) Complete the Passage: 29 (13%, same)

### READING COMPREHENSION

The Official Guide Bundle contains a total of 261 Reading Comprehension questions across 52 passages. The GMAC classifies question difficulty into three categories as follows: Easy 89 (34%, 10 more than 2017) Medium 101 (39%, 9 fewer) Hard 71 (27%, 1 fewer) There are 37 new Reading Comprehension questions, with difficulty of Easy / Medium / Hard as follows: 13 / 18 / 6. This is in lieu of 37 questions from the 2017 edition that have been removed, with difficulty of Easy / Medium / Hard as follows: 3 / 23 / 11. The GMAC has assigned a different difficulty rating to a total of 4 Reading Comprehension questions. GMAT Genius classifies question difficulty into five categories. Whereas the GMAC assigns the same difficulty to all questions for a given passage (except in the Diagnostic Exam section), GMAT Genius assesses the difficulty of each question individually. Our assessment skews very slightly harder, but is only 58.8% correlated with the GMAC's assessment, in large part due to different difficulty assessment methodologies. Here's our breakdown: Super Easy 13 (5%, 1 more than 2017) Easy 65 (25%, 3 more) Medium 103 (39%, 3 fewer) Hard 62 (24%, same) Very Hard 18 (7%, 1 fewer) We have grouped the questions based on the question type categorization that GMAT Genius uses for Reading Comprehension (as described on our website). We break down the 261 Reading Comprehension questions as follows: Primary Purpose: 36 (14%, 2 fewer than 2017) Author's Tone: 16 (6%, same) Organization: 8 (3%, 1 more) Function: 35 (13%, 2 more) Specific Reference: 62 (24%, 1 fewer) Inference: 87 (33%, 2 fewer) Critical Reasoning: 17 (7%, 2 more)

### INTEGRATED REASONING

The main Official Guide (part of this bundle) includes online access to 58 Integrated Reasoning practice questions. The IR set includes 8 new questions that we

have not seen before, plus all 50 questions from the prior 2017 edition. The 58 questions consist of the following four types:

|                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Multi-Source Reasoning  | 21 (3 new) |
| Table Analysis          | 7 (1 new)  |
| Graphics Interpretation | 12 (2 new) |
| Two-Part Analysis       | 18 (2 new) |

The GMAC classifies question difficulty into three categories of Easy / Medium / Hard as follows:

|                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Multi-Source Reasoning  | 6 / 7 / 8           |
| Table Analysis          | 3 / 1 / 3           |
| Graphics Interpretation | 4 / 3 / 5           |
| Two-Part Analysis       | 5 / 7 / 6           |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>18 / 18 / 22</b> |

Out of the 50 questions that carry over from the 2017 edition, the GMAC has reclassified the difficulty of 33 questions. For IR, GMAT Genius classifies question difficulty into the same three categories. Except for Two-Part Analysis, our assessment skews significantly easier, and contains notable differences from the GMAC. Our difficulty assessment is only 8.1% correlated with the GMAC's assessment, clearly showing that there is tremendous subjectivity involved in assessing question difficulty. Here's our breakdown of Easy / Medium / Hard:

|                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Multi-Source Reasoning  | 9 / 11 / 1         |
| Table Analysis          | 3 / 4 / 0          |
| Graphics Interpretation | 3 / 7 / 2          |
| Two-Part Analysis       | 2 / 10 / 6         |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>17 / 32 / 9</b> |

**ONLINE INTERFACE** Each Official Guide book includes an access code (see inside front covers) that provides 12-month usage of an online version of the book. The online practice interface is the same as it was previously, except that the onerous limit of 10 saved sessions has been increased to 25 saved sessions in Exam Mode plus 25 saved sessions in Practice Mode (which you should not use, as mentioned below). The 100 questions from the Diagnostic Test chapter of the main Official Guide are available in a separate tab that works with Exam Mode functionality. Since the GMAT is a computer-based test, we believe that it is advisable to work through the questions online. We strongly suggest that you use Exam Mode rather than Practice Mode, since we recommend that students practice using timed question sets that replicate test day conditions. The functionality of the online platform is good overall. You can choose practice sets by question type and difficulty level. Every question lists the corresponding book question number for easy cross-referencing.

**OTHER NOTES** The Official Guides are for practicing with real GMAT questions, not for learning the underlying concepts. The 40-page Math Review section provides a very high-level overview of the math concepts tested on the GMAT. This math review will be highly inadequate except perhaps for the most advanced math students. Similarly, the brief introductions to the concepts tested on the verbal section are highly inadequate. We recommend that you use additional study materials to learn the math and verbal concepts. Although all questions include answer explanations, many GMAT test takers are far from satisfied with these explanations. Math



explanations can be brief and hard-to-understand for non-advanced students, and are sometimes convoluted or inefficient. Most GMAT test takers consider the Sentence Correction explanations quite cryptic. The Critical Reasoning and Reading Comprehension explanations, however, are reasonably good overall.

**CONCLUSION** The Official Guide Bundle has three primary weaknesses, in our opinion:

- 1) An insufficient amount of difficult practice questions, particularly based on GMAT Genius's assessment of difficulty. We are especially dismayed to see the net loss of 30 Hard-difficulty Quant questions (13 Problem Solving and 17 Data Sufficiency) based on GMAC's difficulty assessment compared to the 2017 edition.
- 2) Math answer explanations that are too often either brief or convoluted and Sentence Correction explanations that are too cryptic.
- 3) Contrary to what the back covers of the books claim, questions are not fully presented in order of progressive difficulty for Reading Comprehension in the main OG, for Data Sufficiency in the Quant OG, and for Critical Reasoning and Sentence Correction in the Verbal OG.

Despite these flaws, the Official Guides are an essential source of GMAT practice. We believe that every GMAT aspirant must use all three Official Guide books (this or the prior edition). For these reasons, we give this bundle a 5-star rating. If you already have the 2017 editions of the Official Guides, however, the replacement of 106 math questions and 106 verbal questions is not sufficient to make this edition worth purchasing.

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