

GRE Verbal Reasoning Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

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1. Which word means to hesitate or be undecided?
 - A. Whimsical
 - B. Waver
 - C. Volatile
 - D. Zeal

2. Which term means 'to produce, cause, or bring about'?
 - A. Eloquent
 - B. Dissemble
 - C. Dupe
 - D. Engender

3. Which word means 'Someone who shows off learning'?
 - A. Perfunctory
 - B. Pedant
 - C. Perfidious
 - D. Obstinate

4. Which word means 'Stubborn, unyielding'?
 - A. Obviate
 - B. Obstinate
 - C. Occlude
 - D. Onerous

5. Which word means urgent, requiring immediate action?
 - A. exonerate
 - B. euphemism
 - C. exigent
 - D. ephemeral

6. Which word means 'to stop up; to prevent the passage of'?
 - A. Occlude
 - B. Ostentation
 - C. Paragon
 - D. Obviate

- 7. Which word means 'to free someone from a mistaken belief'?**
- A. Dirge**
 - B. Diatribe**
 - C. Disabuse**
 - D. Desiccate**
- 8. Which word can describe something that is easily changed or unstable?**
- A. Volatile**
 - B. Waver**
 - C. Whimsical**
 - D. Zeal**
- 9. Which word means 'lack of interest or emotion'?**
- A. Antipathy**
 - B. Ameliorate**
 - C. Amalgamate**
 - D. Anachronism**
- 10. Which term describes behavior that is fanciful or capricious?**
- A. Volatile**
 - B. Zeal**
 - C. Whimsical**
 - D. Waver**

Answers

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1. B
2. D
3. B
4. B
5. C
6. A
7. C
8. A
9. A
10. C

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Explanations

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1. Which word means to hesitate or be undecided?

- A. Whimsical
- B. Waver**
- C. Volatile
- D. Zeal

The concept here is finding a word that means to hesitate or be undecided. The word that fits that meaning is the one that conveys wavering or flipping between options. Waver literally means to pause or be indecisive, to vacillate between choices, often delaying a firm conclusion. That exact sense of hesitation is what the question is after. Whimsical describes something playful, capricious, or unpredictable in a lighthearted way—not about indecision. Volatile refers to something unstable or prone to sudden changes, not specifically to hesitation. Zeal means intense enthusiasm or eager vigor, not indecision. For example: "As the deadline loomed, she began to waver between accepting the offer and staying at her current job."

2. Which term means 'to produce, cause, or bring about'?

- A. Eloquent
- B. Dissemble
- C. Dupe
- D. Engender**

Engender is the right term because it means to produce, cause, or bring about something, often a feeling, condition, or situation. It fits the clue exactly by conveying that the action leads to the existence or emergence of something else. For example, policies can engender a sense of optimism or tension, and a decisive act can engender change in a community. The other words don't capture that sense of causing something to come into being. Eloquent describes someone who is fluent or persuasive in speech or writing, not an act of causing. Dissemble means to hide or disguise one's true motives or feelings, which is about concealment rather than creation. Dupe means to deceive or trick someone, which is about manipulation rather than bringing something into existence.

3. Which word means 'Someone who shows off learning'?

- A. Perfunctory
- B. Pedant**
- C. Perfidious
- D. Obstinate

The concept here is identifying a term for someone who flaunts their learning. The word that fits best is pedant. A pedant is someone who overemphasizes formal knowledge and correctness, often correcting others or focusing on trivial details to display their learning. This negative sense distinguishes it from simply being learned; the idea is the show of knowledge rather than genuine understanding. Perfunctory describes something done with minimal effort or care, not about displaying learning. Perfidious means deceitful or treacherous. Obstinate means stubborn and unwilling to change one's mind. These don't capture the sense of someone who parades their knowledge as a form of showmanship the way pedant does.

4. Which word means 'Stubborn, unyielding'?

- A. Obviate
- B. Obstinate**
- C. Occlude
- D. Onerous

Grasping a word that describes a stubborn, unyielding attitude is the idea here. **Obstinate** directly captures that sense: someone who is obstinate stands firm on a position, resisting reasons or arguments to change. Its root evokes persistence in opposing change, and it's commonly used to describe a person's rigid refusal to budge. In context, you'd use it like, "Despite new evidence, she remained obstinate in her stance," highlighting the firmness of her resolve. **Obviate** means to prevent or remove a need or obstacle, which is about avoiding problems rather than describing a person's attitude. **Occlude** means to block or close off, particularly a passage or vision. **Onerous** describes something burdensome or troublesome, not a person's stubbornness.

5. Which word means urgent, requiring immediate action?

- A. exonerate
- B. euphemism
- C. exigent**
- D. ephemeral

Recognizing precise word meanings is what's tested here. **Urgent** means requiring immediate action, and the word that most directly conveys that sense is **exigent**. It's used to describe situations or needs that cannot wait and demand rapid response, as in exigent circumstances. **Exonerate** means to clear someone of blame, which is about responsibility rather than time. **Euphemism** is a milder or indirect term used in place of a harsher one. **Ephemeral** describes something that lasts for a very short time, not urgency or immediacy.

6. Which word means 'to stop up; to prevent the passage of'?

- A. Occlude**
- B. Ostentation
- C. Paragon
- D. Obviate

The concept being tested is knowing a word that means to stop up or block a passage. **Occlude** exactly captures this sense: to close off or obstruct a passage, opening, or lumen. It comes from a Latin root meaning to close. In use, you'd say a vessel or artery can be occluded, meaning its passage is blocked. The other words don't fit this physical blocking sense: **ostentation** refers to pretentious display, **paragon** means a model of perfection, and **obviate** means to remove a need or prevent something from happening, not to physically block a passage.

7. Which word means 'to free someone from a mistaken belief'?

- A. Dirge
- B. Diatribe
- C. Disabuse**
- D. Desiccate

Disabuse is the act of freeing someone from a mistaken belief or false notion. It carries the sense of correcting misinformation and guiding someone toward a more accurate understanding. You might hear it in phrases like “disabuse someone of the idea that...,” as in a teacher or friend correcting a common myth. For example, “The instructor disabused the students of the belief that the Earth is flat.” The other words don’t fit: a dirge is a mournful song for the dead, a diatribe is a bitter, harsh critique, and desiccate means to remove moisture or to become dry and uninteresting.

8. Which word can describe something that is easily changed or unstable?

- A. Volatile**
- B. Waver
- C. Whimsical
- D. Zeal

Focusing on precision of meaning, the word that fits describes something that is easily changed or unstable is volatile. Volatile conveys the idea of instability and quick, unpredictable change, and it’s used for both situations and substances. For example, a volatile market can swing up and down rapidly, or a volatile mood can shift suddenly. Waver suggests someone’s indecision or hesitation between choices, rather than describing the inherent instability of a thing itself. Whimsical means playful or capricious, but it emphasizes being fanciful or quaint rather than inherently unstable. Zeal refers to intense enthusiasm or passion, which is the opposite of instability.

9. Which word means 'lack of interest or emotion'?

- A. Antipathy**
- B. Ameliorate
- C. Amalgamate
- D. Anachronism

The concept being tested is choosing the precise word for a state of emotion or its absence. Lack of interest or emotion is described by apathy. Antipathy, on the other hand, means a strong feeling of dislike or aversion toward something, which is an active emotion, not indifference. The other words convey different ideas: ameliorate means to make better, amalgamate means to merge, and anachronism means something out of its proper historical time. Since apathy isn’t among the choices, none of the options perfectly matches the definition. Among the given terms, antipathy is the only one related to emotion, but it describes a negative feeling rather than a lack of feeling.

10. Which term describes behavior that is fanciful or capricious?

A. Volatile

B. Zeal

C. Whimsical

D. Waver

Whimsical describes behavior that is fanciful or capricious—playfully imaginative, often not bound by practicality, and prone to changeable, spontaneous whims. This word directly captures both aspects of being fanciful and being capricious, making it the best fit for describing such behavior. Volatile refers to something unstable or likely to change suddenly, especially in a way that’s potentially dangerous or dramatic, but it doesn’t convey the playful, imaginative or capricious quality. Zeal means strong enthusiasm or fervor, which is the opposite of capricious moodiness. Waver means to hesitate or be indecisive, indicating inconsistency in choice rather than the light, fanciful nature implied by whimsical.

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Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://greverbalreasoning.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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