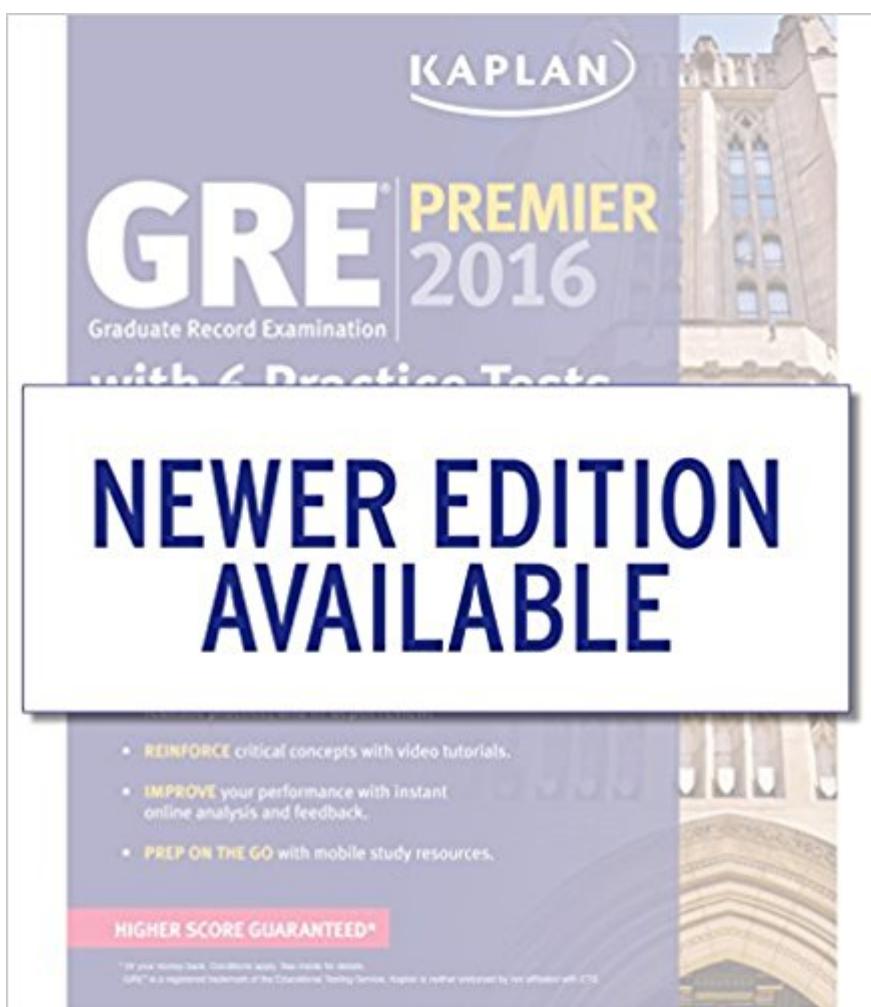


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Synopsis

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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 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.

I suck at math. Out of all the material Magoosh, the Manhattan 5 pound book-which was too large and over the top, the Princeton Review, the GRE for Dummies, this was the one book I should of had from the beginning. I took the GRE twice, my second time around was with this book and my score went up 10 points on my quant. Magoosh is good but was overwhelming with all the videos takes forever to watch and by the way I did the 99 dollar deal. Don't get me wrong Magoosh was great if you haven't been in school for a while. But, this book gets to the point and teaches you the basics and beyond that I would sign up with Magoosh to do their practice test only. If I was to take

the test again, I would really just get this book, finish the book, and make sure you sign up online with their free testing with the book. You get a lot of practice which is just like the real test, you have several times to practice any part of the test(Quant and Verbal and Reading) and the whole thing, there are many options. I would not buy any other book seriously, I wasted so much money. And, if you have the time to finish all the practice test on this site, and still do not feel confident, than that is when I would pay the 99 dollars for the quant part only. I felt that Magoosh did not cover the reading and verbal and the writing as much as this book did, but Magoosh went well above and beyond for the math. The math teacher on Magoosh is a genius, you do learn shortcuts, but if you do not know the basics of math, he goes pretty fast through everything. Seriously, I think you can do really well with just this book and nothing else. Good luck to everyone!:)

I bought the Kindle version of this product and am a little confused about why I cannot receive it on my Ipad. I'm using the Kindle browser to view the book. Every time I get to the practice set at the end of a chapter, the numbered questions are off-set and the answer choices are numbered instead of lettered (the following answers are lettered). It's not that big of a deal because you can just correlate numbers with letters, but I'm just wondering why it is set up that way and if it's just like this in the browser. I also don't know if it just a glitch for me and everyone else can access the mobile device version. In addition to this, the text is never in the same place on the page if you move back and forth. I think I've noticed this on Ipad too for Kindle with other texts. It makes studying a bit inconvenient if you're the type of person who remembers where each concept was on the page. The explanation of math concepts could be more structured. I feel as if they assume a lot about the reader's prior knowledge.

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