

# THE GMAT® PREP TIMELINE

A week-by-week study guide,  
plus resources and tips to  
make your study efforts more  
effective and efficient.


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GET MORE DETAILS  
AT [MBA.COM](https://mba.com).

SCHOOL CHOICES:	GMAT APPOINTMENT:	NOTES:
_____	DAY: _____	_____
_____	DATE: _____	_____
_____	TIME: _____	_____
_____	LOCATION: _____	_____
TARGET SCORE: _____	_____	_____

“Test takers who understand the structure of the GMAT exam and pace themselves properly will, in all likelihood, finish the examination within the time limit.”

— Lawrence (Larry) M. Rudner, PhD, MBA  
Vice President of Research and Development, GMAC

 **START 3–6 MONTHS BEFORE TEST RESULTS ARE DUE**

	PLANNING			STUDYING	FINAL PREP		TESTING	RESULTS
	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEKS 4–7	WEEK 8	WEEK 9	WEEK 10	WEEKS 11–13
	GATHER INFO ABOUT YOUR TARGET PROGRAMMES	REGISTER & PLAN	ESTABLISH YOUR SKILLS BASELINE	STUDY... STUDY... STUDY...	ASSESS YOUR PROGRESS	HOME STRETCH	TESTING	SCORING
<b>MILESTONES</b> 	<input type="checkbox"/> Identify schools' application deadlines and GMAT score ranges. <i>(Fill in above)</i>  <input type="checkbox"/> Set your target score. <i>(Fill in above)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Register for the GMAT exam. <i>(Fill in above)</i>  <input type="checkbox"/> Develop your study plan and schedule.	<input type="checkbox"/> Take a GMATPrep practice exam to identify the skills you need to study most.	<input type="checkbox"/> Practice using the free questions in the GMATPrep software.  <input type="checkbox"/> Review your progress and plan strategies to improve your weak areas.	<input type="checkbox"/> Take your second GMATPrep practice exam.	<input type="checkbox"/> Keep studying through the home stretch!	<input type="checkbox"/> Take the GMAT exam; get <b>unofficial</b> scores.	<b>CONGRATULATIONS. RELAX &amp; CELEBRATE.</b> You and your schools should allow <b>about 20 days</b> to receive your official GMAT scores.
<b>RESOURCES</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore <a href="https://mba.com">mba.com</a> for information on specific schools and programmes, GMAT exam, and GMAT prep materials.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Register at <a href="https://mba.com/gmatregistration">mba.com/gmatregistration</a>.</li> <li>Download the free GMATPrep® software at <a href="https://mba.com/gmatprep">mba.com/gmatprep</a>.</li> <li>Download the GMAT Bulletin. It tells you everything you need to know and agree to before you take the GMAT exam. <a href="https://mba.com/bulletin">mba.com/bulletin</a></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Download “Analysis of an Argument” essay topics found on the Analytical Writing Assessment page at <a href="https://mba.com">mba.com</a>.</li> <li>Use the GMATPrep software to review strategies for specific question types and refresh quantitative skills in the math review.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use the GMATPrep software to review GMAT exam myths and general test-taking strategies.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take a video tour of the test centre at <a href="https://mba.com">mba.com</a>.</li> <li>Get ready for the big day with tips from students like you at <a href="https://mba.com">mba.com</a>.</li> </ul> 	
<b>TIPS</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start three to six months before test results are due to schools.</li> <li>Prepare in the way you learn best—classes, tutoring, study groups, or self-study.</li> <li>Retake the exam if things don't go to plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The farther in advance you register, the greater your choice of available dates to take the exam.</li> <li>GMAT experts recommend studying twice a week.</li> <li>Mix up different question types and exam sections in your schedule.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replicate actual test conditions as you practice. Don't use a calculator or study materials.</li> <li>Keep an eye on the clock; remember the timer turns yellow when you have five minutes or less left to complete a section.</li> <li>If you're spending too long on a question, guess and move on.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study for the GMAT exam until you are comfortable with the test—question formats, test timing, and how to pace yourself.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replicate actual test conditions, time yourself, and don't use a calculator or study materials.</li> <li>Revisit strategies for specific question types.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Devote extra prep work to your weakest areas.</li> <li>Remember to review your strong areas as well.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow extra time to get to the test centre so you don't have to rush to make your appointment.</li> </ul>	